

### Hizbollah hits Israeli jeep in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (R) — Guerrillas ambushed an Israeli jeep in south Lebanon with anti-tank rockets and machine guns Wednesday, setting the vehicle on fire but causing no casualties, pro-Israeli militia sources said. The jeep was burned out but the soldiers in it managed to jump out and escape, the sources said. A Hizbollah (Party of God) spokesman in Beirut said the pro-Iranian group carried out the early afternoon attack near the village of Arnoun in Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone. He said a number of Israeli soldiers were injured but this could not be independently confirmed. Hizbollah guerrillas also attacked posts of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in the occupation zone but there were no reports of casualties, SLA sources said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

### Arafat in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived in Algiers on Wednesday for a brief official visit during which he is expected to meet President Liamine Zeroual, state television reported. Flying in from Tunisia, Mr. Arafat was welcomed by the speaker of Algeria's National Assembly, Abdelkader Bensalah. After talks in Algeria, Mr. Arafat is expected to travel to Cairo to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday, when the two men will discuss attempts to relaunch the stalled Middle East peace process. In Tunisia, Mr. Arafat repeated his call to save Jerusalem from a tide of Jewish colonisation. He also accused the Israeli government of trying to destroy the peace process.

Volume 22 Number 6573

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 3-4, 1997, SAFAR 26-27, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

## Hebron, Gaza clashes claim Palestinian life

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI SOLDIERS shot and killed a Palestinian youth with a bullet to the heart as clashes erupted with protesters around Jewish settlements in Gaza and in Hebron Wednesday.

Maher Abdul Menem Assar, 18, was shot by soldiers at a demonstration against a land grab by Jewish settlers outside the Gush Katif bloc of settlements near the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Deir Al Balah, witnesses said.

He was taken to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City with a wound in the heart from a live bullet and died soon after arrival, hospital sources said.

Assar had been among some 100 Palestinians who gathered outside Gush Katif to protest when, in a bid to expand their settlement, settlers began bulldozing in the morning a piece of land claimed by Palestinians.

The protesters threw stones at nearby Israeli soldiers, who responded with tear gas and rubber-coated bullets, witnesses said.

The same location was the scene of protests in mid-June when settlers first seized the piece of land and began bulldozing it. A settler opened fire on Palestinians at the time and wounded one.



Palestinian demonstrators topple a concrete barricade in Hebron Wednesday, installed by Israelis during the night near the site where two Israeli soldiers were wounded by a pipe bomb the previous day. Over 200 Palestinians have been injured by rubber-coated bullets since clashes began in mid-June in protest against the enduring freeze in the peace process, now in its fourth month (AFP photo)

Meanwhile, protesters in Hebron shouted "Where is Hitler? Where is Yahya Ayyash?", referring to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler and a slain Palestinian bomb maker who engineered suicide attacks inside Israel.

U.S. Consul General Edward Abington and Palestinian West Bank Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub made their way towards the confrontation line in a bid to calm tensions.

"I came to see what the situation is like. I hope the tension will be reduced...by having restraint by both sides," Mr. Abington told reporters.

Palestinian police did not intervene to halt the unrest. Police sources said they feared demonstrators would use them as a protective shield, drawing fire in their direction, which could worsen the unrest.

Dozens of youths took to the streets and rained stones and petrol bombs on Israeli troops. One soldier's uniform caught on fire when a bomb landed at his feet. Witnesses said a pair of firebombs exploded near an area where foreign press gathered to watch the clashes.

In a deserted home behind the confrontation lines.

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## Majali's popularity drops slightly after 100 days in government — poll

By Tareq Ayyoub  
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The popularity of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and that of his government has dropped slightly after three months in office, a poll conducted by the Strategic Studies Centre at the University of Jordan, showed Wednesday.

The poll indicated that 44 per cent of the 1,500-person national sample which was selected randomly said that Dr. Majali was very successful in his post compared with 54.2 per cent in March. The poll was divided into two categories: decision-makers and the public, with pollsters ages above 19 years.

The poll, conducted to evaluate the performance of Dr. Majali, his 24-man Cabinet and the performance of the government on specific issues following 100 days in office, showed that 30.8 per cent found the 72-year-old premier to be personally successful in his post compared with 30.3 in

March. Only 4.9 per cent said that Dr. Majali's performance was poorly successful compared with 3.1 per cent in March. 4.3 per cent said that the premier was not successful compared with 2.8 per cent in March.

About 42.1 per cent of the 649 decision-makers who participated in the poll said that Dr. Majali was very successful in his job compared with 48.5 per cent in March. 34.1 per cent found his performance to be successful compared with 34.5 per cent in March while 9.4 per cent said the premier was not successful in his post compared with 5.6 per cent three months ago.

Following are some of the results published in the 26-page poll report released on Wednesday:

The poll indicated that 27.9 per cent of those polled said that the cabinet was very successful in shouldering its responsibilities compared with 42.2 per cent in March. 36.7 per cent found the performance to be successful compared

with 38.8 in March. Only 8.4 per cent said the government was not able to shoulder its responsibilities, compared with 4.8 per cent three months ago.

At least 26.3 per cent of the decision-makers who took part in the poll said that they believed the government was successful, compared with 32.3 per cent on March. Only 15.7 per cent said the government was not able to shoulder its responsibilities compared with 11.5 per cent in March.

The poll found that 17.5 per cent of the pollsters said cabinet ministers were very successful compared with 37.2 in March. It added that 33.9 per cent found the cabinet successful compared with 32.2 per cent in March. Only 8.8 per cent said the Cabinet was not successful, compared with 3.8 per cent in March.

Among the decision-makers, 13.3 per cent said the Cabinet formation was very successful compared with 28.2 per cent in March. 42.7 per cent said the Cabi-

net was merely successful compared with 42.9 per cent in March.

Only 16 per cent said the Cabinet formation was not successful compared with 8.5 on March.

On specific issues, the poll said that 52 per cent of the pollsters believed the government was able to develop and revive economy compared with 47.3 per cent in March. Only 23.3 per cent said the government was not able to improve the economic situation in the Kingdom compared with 36.1 in March.

The poll showed that 40.2 per cent said the government is able to solve the unemployment problem compared with 28 per cent in March. Only 38.1 per cent said the government was not able to solve the unemployment problem compared with 60.9 per cent in March.

The poll indicated that 39.1 per cent believe that the government is able to

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### U.S. support for Israel may cost them Saudi fighter deal

DUBAI (AFP) — The United States could pay a high price for its support of Israel by losing out on a Saudi fighter plane deal worth around \$5 billion, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The F-16 fighter of the U.S. manufacturer Lockheed Martin is the frontrunner to replace a fleet of more than 100 ageing F-5s in the Saudi Air Force.

But U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen, on a visit to the kingdom in mid-June, heard criticism from Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz over Israel's unconditional backing for Israel, said diplomats based in Riyadh.

"Prince Abdullah wants the United States to stop giving the impression they side systematically with the Star of David," at a time when the U.S.-sponsored peace process is deadlocked, one diplomat said.

He said the crown prince, who already keeps a distance

from Washington compared to his brothers King Fahd and Defence Minister Prince Sultan, has raised objections to the purchase of F-16s.

The main competitor for the lucrative contract is the JAS-39 built by Saab of Sweden.

Military experts said the Saudi Air Force could also decide to delay the deal to wait for the new generation of warplanes, such as the Rafale of Dassault of France or the F-16 Block 50/60 which is still on the drawing board.

In February, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu raised concerns during a visit to Washington over the possible sale of F-16s to Saudi Arabia.

Any U.S. decision to hold back on equipping the F-16 warplanes with the latest missile technology would only serve to irritate the Saudi kingdom further, one expert said.

### Netanyahu struggles with own coalition

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu struggled on Wednesday to end weeks of coalition turmoil, but there was no sign of a breakthrough in talks with his disgruntled foreign minister.

The crisis in the Israeli cabinet was overshadowed by the death of a 16-year-old Palestinian in yet more violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Netanyahu held a 45-minute meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy in Jerusalem. The prime minister's office said later nothing had been resolved.

"They had a serious meeting on the range of problems. The foreign minister heard the prime minister and made his remarks. Nothing has been finalised," Mr. Netanyahu's office said later in a statement.

Mr. Levy, brooding for days for being left out of

political decision-making, has threatened to resign over the way Mr. Netanyahu was running the government and Middle East peacemaking.

Mr. Netanyahu was expected to assure Mr. Levy he would guide daily peacemaking with Palestinians, a process that has been deadlocked since the government sent in bulldozers last March to carve out a Jewish settlement on a hill in Arab east Jerusalem.

"He (Levy) will have to decide if he can continue being a partner in the government or not," said the head of Mr. Levy's five-member Geshar Faction in parliament, Maksim Levy.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops killed a Palestinian youth during a clash with Arab stone-throwers in a Jewish-Arab dispute over a strip of land near the Gush Katif settlement.

RAMALLAH (AFP) —

Egypt will soon give up on its attempt to mediate an end in the enduring freeze in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in frustration with "Israeli intransigence," a Palestinian official said Wednesday.

"Egyptian efforts will come to an end soon because Egypt will become convinced that (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu is not serious in his dealings," said Ahmad Abdul Rahman, a close advisor of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"Netanyahu deals with the Egyptian mediation more as a public relations exercise than as serious ideas to consider in order to extract the peace process from its crisis," Mr. Abdul Rahman, who is secretary general of Arafat's self-rule cabinet, told journalists in Ramallah.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday he expected some progress within a week in his country's efforts to end the halt

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### Lebanese civilian injured in Israeli bombardment

NABATTIYEH (AFP) — A Lebanese civilian was injured by Israeli artillery fire on Wednesday as Israel responded to an attack by Hizbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon, police said.

A police spokesman said Talal Boucher was injured as artillery shells slammed into his house in Kfar Tebnit, one of the crossing points out of Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon.

He said five other houses and five cars in Kfar Tebnit were also damaged as Israeli gunners fired around 70 shells at the village and the nearby areas of Arnoun and Yohmor.

The shells were fired from the Beaufort Castle position, where the Iranian-backed Hizbollah said it ambushed an Israeli patrol earlier in the day, destroying a troop carrier.

Hizbollah said in a statement that its forces attacked the patrol with anti-tanks rockets and small arms fire as it returned to the Beaufort Castle position, and that the troop transport "caught fire."

A spokesman for Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), con-

firmed the attack but said there were no casualties.

The Shiite Muslim fundamentalist Hizbollah, which spearheads Lebanese resistance to the "security zone," also said it fired mortar rounds at Beaufort Castle and the nearby position at Ali Taher.

Under the terms of an April 1996 ceasefire between Hizbollah and Israel, which ended Israel's 17-day Grapes of Wrath offensive, both sides are banned from targeting civilians in their ongoing conflict.

Israel set up its border strip in southern Lebanon in 1985 to prevent attacks on its northern border by anti-Israeli guerrillas.

Meanwhile, Israel's Deputy Chief of Staff General Ben Naf said Wednesday during a visit to south Lebanon that Israel would keep up the fight against Hizbollah.

"Our army has killed five Hizbollah terrorists in recent days. That proves our fight is effective," he said after holding talks in the border town of Marjayoun with Antoine Lahad, the leader of the SLA.

### Corruption report could result in change of PNA officials

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Investigations into fiscal abuse in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) could lead to the changing of government ministers, an adviser of President Yasser Arafat said Wednesday.

"In the light of results from the investigations, there could be a ministerial shake-up," Ahmed Abdul Rahman, general secretary of the self-rule cabinet, told journalists in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

He did not give details on whether particular ministers were the targets of the investigations or faced removal.

Mr. Arafat created a special commission to investigate an internal audit which found that some \$326 million had been wasted or mismanaged by PNA departments in 1996.

The publishing of the report and the formation of the committee were an unprecedented measure of openness from the PNA, which has often been accused of corruption since its creation in 1994.

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## Indyk's appointment reinforces status quo of U.S. foreign policy

By Lamis Andoni  
 Special to the Jordan Times

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The appointment of former ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, to the highest foreign policy post on the Middle East is expected to reinforce the continuity of the current American position on the peace process — mainly to push for a solution that guarantees Israeli security.

In statements by (till recently) acting assistant of state for Near East Affairs, David Welsh, the U.S. Middle East policy will primarily focus on the peace process, Israeli secu-

rity, regional cooperation and the containment of "Iraq, Iran and Libya."

Mr. Welsh, who served as a political officer at the American embassy in Amman in the eighties, told a group of Arab-Americans recently that there will not be a shift in American policy in the region.

Mr. Welsh is now tipped to be the number two man in the State Department's team, now that Mr. Indyk has officially been appointed as the new Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern affairs.

The appointment, according to political

observers, could create a conflict between the Middle East office at the State Department, that had traditionally been the main centre of power, and the peace coordinator office that has been leading the peace process in the last few years.

Unlike his predecessor, Robert Pelletreau, Mr. Indyk is expected to assert a stronger role and not to leave the stage for U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross.

But the potential conflict is unlikely to be translated into a substantive shift in American foreign policy which has shunned away from practising any real pressure on Israel to abide

by its agreements with the Palestinians. The appointment of Mr. Indyk, a former Israeli lobbyist in Washington, provoked resentment in the Arab World and concern that the American administration is further tilting in favour of Israel.

The view in Washington, however, is that the appointment of Mr. Indyk is consistent with a pro-Israeli foreign policy that has been one of the traits of President Bill Clinton's administration since he first came to office in 1993.

"We are witnessing a complete Zionist takeover of the foreign policy. The

role of the Arabist is over," said Dr. Nasser Aruri, referring to the departure of Mr. Pelletreau, who qualifies as an Arabist for serving in many Arab countries and who was not known to be an advocate of Israeli interests.

Yet Dr. Aruri's analysis is not based on the fact that Mr. Indyk, as many staffers in the current administration, is an American Jew — something that has provoked scathing criticism in the Arab press.

It is true that American Jews have made unprecedented ascension to powerful posts in the Clinton administration but many

analysts refute the argument of a Jewish takeover of the White House.

"The main issue is the American administration's foreign policy and consequently pro-Israeli officials, Jews and non-Jews, are appointed to sensitive posts," Dr. Aruri, who has written extensively on American foreign policy, said.

American Jews who are critical of Israel and American foreign policy are now feeling more alienated than ever. Outspoken critics like thinker Naom Chomsky, theologian Mark Ellis and Political Economist Sarah Roy, among others, are marginalised by

the mainstream media and shunned by the establishment.

The Israeli press on the other hand was among the first to boast that Jews are controlling key posts in Washington and to create an impression that Jews are in partnership with the American government.

A famous headline in Maariv in 1994 read "The Jews who run Clinton's court" and was followed by a report of the number and the influence of Jewish staffers in the American government. The report fell short of pointing out that Jews and Jewish organisations that question Israeli policies and chal-

lenge American foreign policy have no real representation in government.

But a man like Mr. Indyk fits the profile of an American Jew — although he only acquired the American citizenship a few months before he was first appointed to the post of national security advisor on Near Eastern affairs in 1994.

Of Australian origin, Mr. Indyk has always been a pro-Israeli activist. In 1973 he was a student in Israel and refused to be evacuated with other Westerners, as an act of solidarity during the October war.

(Continued on page 7)



# Home News

## Boys denies a suspecting Jordan

Amman, Jordan, June 10 (UPI) — A Jordanian boy, who was charged with the murder of a Jordanian girl, has been denied a suspecting Jordan.

The boy, who is 15 years old, was charged with the murder of a 14-year-old girl, who was found dead in a field near Amman. The girl was identified as a Jordanian girl, who was a student at a school in Amman.

The boy's father, who is a Jordanian, has been charged with the murder of his son. The father is a Jordanian, who is a member of a Jordanian tribe.

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## Merchant arrested

Amman, Jordan, June 10 (UPI) — A Jordanian merchant, who was charged with the murder of a Jordanian girl, has been arrested.

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## Bahraini ex

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## Ministry announce

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## Ministry of Supply

Amman, Jordan, June 10 (UPI) — The Ministry of Supply, which is a Jordanian, has announced that it will be forming a committee to study the supply system.

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## Lloyds denies accusations of inspecting Jordan-bound goods

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Chairman of the Board of Directors of Lloyd's Register Patrick O'Ferrall resolutely denied accusations that his firm has been inspecting Jordan-bound goods in Agaba slated for local consumption.

Lloyd's task in southern Jordan is restricted to goods en route to Iraq, he maintained.

The Jordan Clearance Association (JCA) and shippers alleged that the London-based firm was infringing upon the United Nations agreement which restricts inspections in Agaba to commodities bound for Iraq.

According to the JCA, Lloyd's Register inspections have caused the association delays and resultant losses in regards to goods delivery to the Kingdom.

"I believe these rumours are based on false information," Mr. O'Ferrall said in a Tuesday interview with the Jordan Times. "It is certainly not our intention to inspect any goods intended for local consumption. We are solely dealing

with cargo destined for Iraq."

He maintained that his firm has not received any complaints regarding inspection procedures in Agaba.

"These examinations will continue in line with those decisions effected by the U.N. Sanctions Committee," he added.

"We serve the United Nations. If there have been complaints which the Jordanian government wishes to investigate, then [they should take the matter up with] the United Nations," Mr. O'Ferrall said. "We are merely working in accordance with U.N. directives."

"We are simultaneously following various resolutions in relation to food bound for Iraq," he added. "And some of the inspections are being conducted inside Iraq."

The official was responding to repeated demands by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials who asked the London-based firm in May to halt its activities in Agaba and shift its work to inside Iraq.

Iraqi inspections are an unrelated matter and began after the Agaba inspections,

[but are also] in accordance with U.N. requirements," Mr. O'Ferrall stated.

"We will continue our work as long as the Sanctions Committee deems appropriate," he added. "[It is not for us to] pass judgement. The United Nations [is the body which] decides."

Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh was quoted by local Arab media last month as stating that the Kingdom was working to stop the Lloyd's inspections in Agaba.

There were also hints that a complaint has been registered with the United Nations.

"If the Jordanian people wish [to change] inspection methods, it is they who must discuss the matter with the United Nations," Mr. O'Ferrall asserted. "We are merely following orders and I have [received word] that we are [accomplishing our task] efficiently."

Lloyd's Register has replaced the U.S.-controlled maritime inspection imposed against Iraqi-bound goods since 1990, following Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

## Kingdom welcomes Arab summit to discuss impasse in peace process — prime minister

From P.V. Vivekanand  
in Bahrain

JORDAN WELCOMES calls for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the impasse in the Middle East peace process and will attend the summit if and when convened, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Wednesday.

Dr. Majali, addressing a press conference after talks here with Bahraini leaders, also said that Jordan did not believe that the opening of the Syrian-Iraqi border for trade had any bearing on Amman-Baghdad ties.

"We welcome the opening of the border," said Dr. Majali. "It is an affair that concerns two of our brotherly countries and we do not see any connection between the opening of the border and Jordanian-Iraqi trade," which will continue unimpeded.

Dr. Majali, who held talks with the Bahraini emir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, paid tribute to Jordanian-Bahraini relations.

Describing his talks here as fruitful and constructive, Dr. Majali stated that a main focus of discussions was the reactivation of all bilateral agreements between the two countries.

"Various suggestions were made towards strengthening cooperation in all fields, and these will be followed up by committees and experts," Dr. Majali told the press conference.

He confirmed that he also discussed inter-Arab relations and emphasised the need for Arab solidarity and coordination.

Dr. Majali described his visit to Bahrain as part of a mission to "pro-

mote Arab unity and coordination, especially as the Arab World is going through a sensitive period..."

"We should be united," he said. "I do not believe Arab differences are so serious that they cannot be settled."

In reply to a question, he maintained that Jordan "believes Arab meetings will help serve Arab interests and supports the call for any Arab gathering, including summits..."

Based on this belief, Jordan will attend an Arab summit if and when it is convened, he added, but noted that there was "no concrete move" as of yet towards an Arab summit.

On Jordan's stand on the planned Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference to be held in Doha in September, Dr. Majali implied that Jordan would attend the meeting if it were held but the possibility remained open that the forum could be postponed.

Noting the planned Doha meeting is the fourth MENA conference, he said: "We have always attended the (MENA conferences) although our brothers in Syria and Lebanon never attended these conferences as they held different views... (however) we made sure we attended these summits and they influenced bilateral talks."

"We are also committed to achieving peace (in the Middle East), and respect brotherly countries which have different views towards attending these conferences..."

The prime minister noted that Qatar had not yet issued official invitations to the conference and that the Damascus Declaration states, in a recent meeting in Latakia, Syria, had postponed a final decision until September "hoping there will be a change on bilateral tracks, especial-

ly on the Israeli-Palestinian level."

"I believe that this track will soon witness changes and the obstacles (for the conference) will be removed," he said.

"But if anything urgent comes up, this summit could be postponed."

Dr. Majali said Jordan was satisfied with Israeli compliance with some of the terms of the peace treaty with the Kingdom and related agreements but was not satisfied on some counts.

"We are happy that we are going to get 30 million cubic metres of water (annually)" in line with the treaty stipulations, he said.

However, he said, Israel continues to impede imports of Jordanian products and the flow of Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories.

"Everyone argues that opening the border with Israel will lead to the flooding of the Arab market with Israeli products," he said. "But the truth is that our products are cheaper than Israeli products and thus Israel wants to prevent the exports of our products."

However, he added, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised His Majesty King Hussein during their last meeting to address the issues and remove obstacles to trade.

Dr. Majali also defended recent amendments to the Press and Publications Law which sparked strong protests in Jordan.

"We believe in freedom of the press, but it should not be used to attack individuals," he said. "It should not mislead and misguide people through misinterpretation of government policies."

The amendments, Dr. Majali stated, stipulate "punishments which will only be executed through a

court of law in accordance with the law."

"These are mainly fines and aim at preserving people's rights and punishing whoever tries to mislead the public through publishing inaccurate information," he said.

"Previously those who misguided and misled people thought they could get away with anything they wrote," according to the prime minister.

"With this new law, we have assured the public that they will be protected against any lie which damages their lives."

Dr. Majali, who leaves early today, described his talks here as covering a number of issues concerning the two countries and means of bolstering cooperation mechanisms in economic affairs, trade, education, tourism, culture and information.

He called for the creation of a Jordanian-Bahraini bank to facilitate import and export banking procedures and help increase trade.

The prime minister, accompanied by Bahraini Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Abdul Nabi Al Shoula, also visited the Salmaniya Medical Centre, one of Manama's major health facilities.

At his residence at the Royal Le Meridien Hotel, Dr. Majali held a meeting with members of the Jordanian community living in Bahrain and conveyed the King's and HRH Crown Prince Hassan's greetings and good wishes.

He paid tribute to Bahraini-Jordanian relations and described them as distinguished and serving the aspirations of the two peoples.

## Merchant arrested over offending sign

AMMAN (AFP) — The owner of an Amman supermarket has been arrested for displaying a sign burning entry to "dogs and Jews" following an official protest from Israel. Jordanian officials said Wednesday.

Waddah Barghuthi, owner of the Sul Al Zawayeh supermarket, is to

face criminal charges for violating a Jordanian law against anti-Semitism, a senior Jordanian official who requested anonymity told AFP.

Mr. Barghuthi removed the sign, written in English, after police intervened. The store owner told officials

that he put up the sign under pressure from Jordanian opposition groups opposed to Jordan's peace treaty with Israel.

Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Omar Rifa'i said that the government would work to remove the sign, which he labelled a "very grave matter."

## Bahraini experts to visit Jordan

From P.V. Vivekanand  
in Bahrain

A TEAM of Bahraini experts will soon visit Jordan to study oil and gas exploration work in response to a specific request made during talks here yesterday, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Hourani stated.

Dr. Hourani also affirmed that Jordan and Bahrain plan to exchange expertise in power generation and distribution and that Bahrain will assign people to study Jordan's experience in privatising the state electricity company.

In an interview with the Jordan Times on talks with the Bahraini minister of electricity and water, he

said that Jordan had requested that the Bahraini Ministry of Oil and Industry explore the possibilities of cooperation in oil and gas exploration.

The Bahraini Petroleum Company (BAPCO) will send a team of experts to examine possibilities. The visit is expected soon, according to Dr. Hourani.

It will be the first time in more than 10 years that experts from the oil-producing Arab Gulf region will review the oil and gas situation in Jordan, which depends on imports for all of its oil needs.

Gas has been found at two major wells near the Jordanian-Iraqi border, and the output is used to generate about 18 per cent of the Kingdom's electricity. Several foreign firms are

exploring for oil and gas in several parts of Jordan, including the Dead Sea area. Some hydrocarbon deposits have been found in some areas but not in commercially feasible quantities.

Reporting on Dr. Hourani's talks with Mr. Juma, the Gulf News Agency affirmed that the two ministers agreed on implementing an executive programme for all articles of the cooperation agreement signed between the two ministries in November 1995.

The agreement covers the exchange of expertise between the two sides in the fields of designing, activating, operating, and maintaining electricity projects as well as joint planning and studies. It also

calls for using computerised systems in the field of training and secondment of technicians.

Mr. Juma said that he and Dr. Hourani discussed the possibility of Bahrain benefiting from the expertise of electric linkage between Jordan and Egypt, especially that related to financing such large projects, and to make use of this experience in the field of electric grids in the Gulf states.

The two ministers also reviewed Jordan's experiment in privatising the electricity sector and dividing it up into specialised companies for electric production and distribution.

These exchanges are very important to build cooperation and coordination in this area, Mr. Juma concluded.

## Opposition objects to state of financial monitoring

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Opposition parties have objected to the means in which the Ministry of Interior is currently monitoring their financial resources and inspecting their annual budgets.

In a letter to Minister of Interior Nabeer Rasheed Tuesday, 11 opposition parties, grouped into the Higher Committee for Coordination among the Opposition Parties, strongly criticised the ministry's appointment of a private auditing firm — Ma'moun Farouka — to conduct such inspections.

"We believe that this is a job for government officials, or somebody with an official mandate, and not just anybody," Islamists and leftists stated in their letter to Mr. Rasheed.

They affirmed their willingness to "facilitate the duties of any government employee officially assigned to this job."

Opposition parties also complained that auditors are requesting that "some parties" document issues unrelated to finances, such as "party members' names and addresses," a source from the Jordan's People Democratic Party

told the Jordan Times.

In response to these allegations, the Ministry of Interior countered that "everything is being effected in accordance with the law, and all parties are being treated equally and without discrimination."

In a Wednesday telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Ministry of Interior Secretary General Hashem Sabbagh maintained that his ministry is acting in accordance with the 1992 Political Parties Law.

Art. 19 of this law states that political parties must "depend on Jordanian, local, known, declared and specified sources."

The same article also stipulates that "the party may accept gifts and donations only from Jordanian citizens, provided that the amount given by one person does not exceed JD 5,000 per year."

The 1992 Political Parties Law also states that "the party shall provide the Minister (of Interior) a copy of its annual budget and a declaration of its financial means and sources and financial position during the first quarter of each year" (Art. 20).

In an interview with the Jordan Times in early June, Mr. Rasheed

announced his intention to monitor the parties' compliance with the 1992 law and declared that those found in violation will be brought to justice in accordance with the law.

"Democracy is not a free-for-all system and based on this, we are working to ensure that there is full compliance with the Constitution and the laws," the minister told the Jordan Times, adding that "any violation of the law by any party is an infringement of democracy."

Declining to disclose as to whether any violation has been heretofore discovered, Dr. Sabbagh confirmed that penalties will be announced after inspections are concluded.

"It will take some time," he said, refusing to elaborate as to when the monitoring operations will close.

Legal provisions envisaged in the 1992 law, concerning violations to articles governing political parties' financial status and activities, range from "imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, or a fine not exceeding JD 2,000, or both," to the party's dissolution, by mandate of the High Court of Justice.

## Ministry announces formation of specialised committees to redraft judicial legislation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Justice Wednesday announced the formation of specialised committees comprising court justices, law professors and lawyers to redraft Jordanian judicial legislation.

This move was calculated to modernise the judicial system and improve the level of the performance of justices of the peace working therein.

His Majesty King Hussein, HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Ministry of Justice Secretary General Eid Lawzi initiated the process.

Last March, the King instructed the government to initiate measures which would guarantee judiciary independence and improve the living conditions of judges through the allocation of special allowances.

In a letter to the government, the King affirmed that the judicial sys-

tem should continue to serve as a model of competence, integrity and independence, and that, as such, a re-examination of the 1972 Judiciary Law should be conducted.

These new measures should end a circumstance which occurred under the 1972 law in which the judicial council was only permitted to implement rulings upon a recommendation of the Minister of Justice.

These new committees will formulate draft laws regarding court procedure, trials, court inspections, the public notary, the judiciary, selection of judges and the penal code, Mr. Lawzi explained.

The committees' work must be completed in a relatively short time period so that the ideas generated therein can be scrutinised by authorities before they are dispatched to the Bar Association, law

schools and the Amman chambers of industry and commerce for appraisal.

Subsequent to these evaluations, the laws will be finalised and enacted.

According to Mr. Lawzi, courts and offices of the justices of the peace will be relocated from the old Palace of Justice in downtown Amman to a new building in the district of Abdali as of July 15.

The Ministry of Justice is currently completing various sections of the new Palace of Justice, he added.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor formally inaugurated the new Palace of Justice last November during national celebrations of the King's 61st birthday.

The complex cost JD 14 million and houses 11 courts and offices.

## Ministry of Supply fining recalcitrant merchants

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has been fining merchants and storekeepers who fail to announce product prices as well as those who sell commodities for prices higher than those printed on attached price tags. Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply Secretary General Mohammad Smadi confirmed Wednesday.

Simply because certain

commodity prices have been floated does not mean that merchants can ignore prices printed on their products with impunity, Dr. Smadi stated.

Merchants are therefore responsible for placing price tags on their merchandise as stipulated by the Supply Law, he added. These same merchants must be committed to

selling products at declared prices, otherwise they are liable for fines as reported by ministry inspection teams, Dr. Smadi affirmed.

Ministry inspectors last month issued 364 fines to merchants in Amman for failing to declare prices not only for fruits and vegetables but also products such as garments and spare auto parts. The ministry issued 253

separate fines to Amman merchants who were selling commodities for prices different from those declared, he added. Dr. Smadi quoted Article 16 of the Ministry of Supply Law as stipulating the imposition of fines, ranging from between JD 30 to JD 300, and a prison term of no less than a week for those who transgress the law.

## WHAT'S GOING ON FILM

\*"Max Ernst" (with commentary in Arabic by Adnan Al Shari) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

\*"Silver Jewelry exhibition" at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

\*Karim Rasin's works at the Orient Gallery, until July 10.

\*Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment in Iraqi Art" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

\*"Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition," showing works of 60 Arab artists, at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh until July 24.

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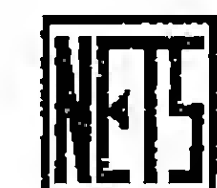
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## Taleban said to have seized Rabbani's HQ in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Islamic Taleban militia Wednesday seized the headquarters of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani in northern Afghanistan, the Afghan Islamic Press reported.

The Islamic militia, aided by local commanders and residents, captured Taloqan, the main city of Takhar province, after a two-day offensive launched Tuesday from neighbouring Kunduz, the private information service said. The city is the headquarters of Mr. Rabbani, who was ousted from Kabul by the Taleban last September and is part of an opposition military alliance. There was no independent confirmation of the report by the AIP, which operates from the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Mr. Rabbani's whereabouts were not immediately known but two helicopters had left Taloqan a day before the city's fall with unknown passengers aboard, AIP said.

An opposition spokesman, speaking to AFP in Kabul earlier by satellite phone, admitted significant territorial gains in the area by the Taleban, who launched an infantry offensive Tuesday after formal peace negotiations apparently failed.

Mr. Abdullah said fighting was going on around Bangi Bridge, which marks the approximate boundary between Kunduz and Takhar.

AIP said 20 soldiers loyal to Mr. Rabbani's military strongman Ahmad Shah Masood were killed. The Taleban lost eight fighters with 17 wounded since fighting began Tuesday, it said. Around 300 Masood troops and four tanks were captured in the Taleban offensive, the agency said.

The joint force of Taleban and locals advanced toward Taloqan after taking the district of Khawajaghar in Takhar, it said.

If Takhar's fall is confirmed, it would be a morale-boosting breakthrough for the Islamic militia, which suffered severe setbacks in the north recently. The militia, which controls two-thirds of the country and has vowed to capture the rest, was forced to retreat from the northern provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif in May, suffering heavy casualties at the hands of forces of new northern strongman General Abdul Malik.

A large number of Taleban, including then Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammad Ghous and some other key militia figures, were reported taken prisoner in Mazar.

Gen. Malik had first helped the Taleban enter Mazar-i-

Sharif in a revolt against warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, who fled into exile. But within days he turned against the Taleban.

The new Uzbek leader is allied with Mr. Rabbani's forces led by his chief Commander Masood, and Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat, which holds the central Bamian province in Afghanistan.

The opposition forces under Mr. Masood have launched their own attacks against the Taleban, from the south and to the west of Kunduz city, Mr. Abdullah said.

"We have gained some ground around Kunduz Airport," he claimed. He said "our forces" — apparently the ethnic Uzbek army under Gen. Malik — had captured the Chardara Bridge immediately to the west of Kunduz City, 340 kilometres north of Kabul.

Later Wednesday, the Afghan opposition denied the Taleban had captured Taloqan.

Taloqan had not fallen to an attacking force of Taleban, but was "firmly" in the hands of Commander Masood, Mr. Abdullah said.

"We not only control Taloqan but have successfully counter-attacked the Taleban and recaptured Khanabad," District Centre in eastern Kunduz, he said.

U.N. agency announces Taleban amnesty for all returning Afghan refugees

In Islamabad, a United Nations agency Wednesday announced an amnesty by Afghanistan's Taleban administration for all nationals residing abroad who decide to return to the country.

The Taleban administration has invited Afghan refugees in Iran, Pakistan and other countries to return "in safety and dignity," the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here said. The amnesty protects returnees from prosecution for draft evasion, desertion or for having joined opposition commanders, the U.N. agency said.

There are an estimated 1.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, another million in Iran, in addition to an unknown number elsewhere in the world.

The "comprehensive" amnesty has been declared by the Supreme Court chief justice of the Taleban administration, the UNHCR said. The amnesty also provides guarantees for the recovery or restitution of property lawfully owned by the returnees and for the respect of their human rights, it added.

## Six dead after clash between Georgians, Abkhaz separatists

TBILISI (R) — Fighting flared Tuesday between Georgians and Abkhaz separatists in the country's northwest, coinciding with a new round of shuttle diplomacy by a top Russian official.

Interfax News Agency quoted a separatist Interior Ministry official in the Abkhaz capital Sukhumi as saying that five Georgian commandos had infiltrated the Guprisheh region, near the middle of Abkhazia.

They were killed when they were surrounded by an Abkhaz unit, the official said. One Abkhaz also died and five were injured. Abkhaz officials blamed the incident on "Georgian special services."

Georgian officials said they had no information on the reported incident. Tbilisi denies having control over the small groups of fighters, which infiltrate Abkhazia on a regular basis.

The Abkhaz official said that in protest his side would boycott a routine meeting between Abkhaz and Georgian officials scheduled for Wednesday near the border.

The reported violence occurred as a new round of shuttle diplomacy by the deputy head of Russia's policy-making Security Council, Boris Berezovsky began.

Mr. Berezovsky and a team of aides held two hours of talks with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi before flying to Sukhumi to confer with Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba. He was expected back in Tbilisi later.

Mr. Shevardnadze's press office said Mr. Berezovsky had brought unspecified "new ideas" on how to solve the conflict, which killed 10,000 people during 1992-93.

"The Georgian-Abkhaz conflict and some new ideas about how to solve it were discussed," said a press centre official.

A total of 1,500 Russian peacekeepers patrol a buffer zone between Abkhazia and Georgia but Tbilisi says they must go home after the end of this month if they do not agree to police more of Abkhazia and help refugees return to the region.

Georgia says the peacekeepers' current role only serves to reinforce the division between it and Abkhazia, which it lost control of after its troops were routed by the separatists during the war.

A possible departure of the peacekeepers and the vacuum that might leave has left observers fearing new hostilities between the two sides.

Russia seems keen for the

troops, an important symbol of its leading political role in the former Soviet republics, to stay.

Georgia and Abkhazia recently completed two weeks of intense negotiations in Moscow but failed to come up with a comprehensive plan to end their conflict.

Georgia says Abkhaz desires for a "union state" of two equal partners would give the pro-independence Sukhumi government a basis to secede later. It is offering Abkhazia a federal pact with strong autonomy, something the rebels reject.

Abkhazia, a lush land of subtropical beaches against a backdrop of majestic snow-capped peaks, has run itself as a de facto independent state ever since the war ended but is deeply isolated from the outside world.

No state has even considered recognising its sovereignty.

Life in the once-merry region, the haunt of the Communist elite when Georgia was still a part of the now-defunct Soviet Union, has slowed to a standstill under a crippling partial blockade imposed by the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States which groups most former Soviet republics.

## Azerbaijan voices sympathy for Chechen struggle

MOSCOW (AFP) — Azerbaijan more than any other country sympathises with the Chechen separatists' independence struggle, Azerbaijani President Geidar Aliyev told Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov, Interfax News Agency reported Wednesday.

Mr. Aliyev also called for greater cooperation with Chechenya, during talks with Mr. Maskhadov, who arrived in Baku late Tuesday for an unofficial visit.

"Azerbaijan sympathises with the Chechen people's struggle more than any other country," Mr. Aliyev said, referring to the 21-month separatist war against Russian forces which ended with a peace deal signed last August.

During the war there were allegations in Moscow that Azerbaijan — a mainly Muslim republic like Chechenya — was allowing its territory to be used by the Chechen separatists to obtain arms and other supplies.

Mr. Aliyev was due to arrive in Moscow Wednesday for talks aimed at resolving problems concerning the transit of Azerbaijani "early" oil from the Caspian Sea via Chechenya to the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiysk.

On Monday, Chechen First Deputy Prime Minister Movladi Udugov told reporters: "We won't resolve the oil question until we've resolved the customs and banking questions."

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin discussed the oil pipeline issue with Mr. Maskhadov and Mr. Udugov last week, but they failed to reach a transit agreement. The first "early" oil produced by an international consortium is due to start flowing across southern Russia on October 1, once repairs have been finished to the Chechen section and the transit problems have been ironed out.

The Azerbaijani section of the pipeline up to the Russian border is already full of Caspian crude, according to the consortium.

In a thinly veiled warning to Russia to keep out of Chechen affairs, Mr. Maskhadov told Mr. Aliyev that the Caucasian republics should resolve their own regional problems.



The 255,000 dead-weight-tonne tanker Diamond Grace is afloat, spilling crude oil (background) after scraping a reef in shallow waters of Tokyo Bay. The Panamanian-flagged supertanker was on its way to Mitsubishi Oil Co. Ltd.'s 75,000 barrel-per-day refinery at Kawasaki near Tokyo, when it ran aground (Reuters photo)

## Tanker accident in Tokyo Bay causes major spill

YOKOHAMA (R) — A supertanker was ripped open by a shallow reef in Tokyo Bay Wednesday leaking an estimated 13,400 tonnes of crude oil, a coast-guard spokesman said, causing Japan's worst ever oil spill.

"There is a strong possibility that 13,400 tonnes (about 100,000 barrels) of crude oil may have spilled," said the spokesman for the Maritime Safety Agency's regional headquarters in Yokohama, south of Tokyo.

It would be the largest oil spill ever in Japan, far surpassing the 6,000 tonnes (44,700 barrels) that leaked from a tanker in the western port of Nigata in 1971.

Earlier this year, the Russian tanker Nahodka leaked 5,200 tonnes (about 36,400 barrels) of heavy fuel oil

when it broke in two in the Sea of Japan in January. The Russian tanker was carrying 19,000 tonnes (about 133,000 barrels) of heavy fuel oil.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who had been sharply critical of the response to the January spill, ordered a disaster centre to be established immediately.

He warned there was a threat of a big fire from the so far uncontrolled leak, which was just off the Japanese capital's main domestic airport of Haneda.

"I am worried because it (the site of the accident) is close to populated areas and connected to sea routes," Mr. Hashimoto told reporters.

The oil slick from the 259,999 deadweight-tonne Panamanian-flagged Dia-

mond Grace spread over an area about 3.5 kilometres long and 4.5 kilometres wide in the middle of Tokyo Bay and was shifting northwards because of the wind, the spokesman said.

He said the agency dispatched 16 oil-cleaning and patrol boats to the scene but said the spill was too large for oil fences to be placed around it.

The area, between Yokohama, Japan's biggest port, and the Tokyo metropolitan area, is a famed fishing ground.

Two of the tanker's 14 oil tanks were ruptured when the ship scraped a shallow reef about 6.5 kilometres off Yokohama's Honmoku Pier Wednesday morning, the spokesman said.

The leak from one of the ruptured tanks had stopped

and agency staff were investigating the other rupture, the spokesman said.

The tanker anchored near the spot where it scraped its bottom. None of the 25 crewmembers were hurt.

At its shallowest point, the reef is only 12 metres below the surface.

The Coast Guard ordered all vessels to stay away from the oil spill because it could catch fire.

The Diamond Grace was carrying 257,000 tonnes of crude oil from the United Arab Emirates to a refinery in Kawasaki, between Yokohama and Tokyo.

The tanker, built in 1994, was chartered by Mitsubishi Oil. A spokesman for the company said it was not clear how the accident might affect operations at the 75,000 barrel-per-day Kawasaki refinery.

## Storms hit Chinese-ruled Hong Kong, injure 8, derail parade

HONG KONG (R) — Storms lashed Chinese-ruled Hong Kong Wednesday, injuring eight people buried in a landslide and forcing cancellation of a huge carnival procession to celebrate reunion with Beijing.

Two Western expatriate policemen were among the landslide victims taken to hospital as floods disrupted traffic and kept people off the streets despite a public holiday.

With China's red flag flying for a second day over the former British colony, organisers had to cancel a carnival parade planned as the biggest such handover festivity.

Floors representing animals and Chinese themes stood soggy on a central waterfront promenade. Rain-soaked sentries of the People's Liberation Army stood guard at their garrison nearby.

Rescue teams searched for a woman trapped in her home under a landslide after torrential rain. The slip damaged foundations of the famed Ten Thousand Buddha Temple, near the satellite town of Sha Tin.

A prominent sightseeing attraction, the hilltop tem-

ple, reached by 400 steps, is attached to a large monastery and actual statues of Buddha.

Train services were severely disrupted on the Kowloon Canton Railway after landslips on the track and hundreds of passengers were forced to take shuttle buses.

Sub-tropical Hong Kong's rainy season, affected by monsoons, starts around late June and runs through September, sometimes bringing fatal landslides and typhoons that halt the bustling metropolis.

The red Chinese flag with five golden stars, hoisted when China took over at midnight Monday, fluttered in squalls adding almost a lone dash of colour amid grey storm-clouds over the giant republic's new Special Administrative Region.

Organiser Henry Woo said floats from the cancelled handover procession would instead be put on display in central Victoria Park — named after Queen Victoria in whose name the British seized Hong Kong in opium wars in 1841.

Hong Kong has revelled in a five-day extended holiday since Saturday but daily

rain, thunder and lightning have kept many at home huddled around mahjong tables and television screens.

Britain had to hand out umbrellas Monday to the audience when its "sunset" farewell parade and military tattoo unfolded under grey skies and buckets of rain.

By contrast a midnight joint handover gala attended by Chinese state leaders proceeded well-sheltered in a new indoor convention centre jutting over the harbour.

For the departing British it was a washout, but for many Chinese in this territory of 6.4 million people rain is an omen of good fortune brought by lucky dragons.

"As far as business is concerned, it is a good omen, because water means money, so money is really pouring down for us. So in that case, I think it's good for Hong Kong," Mr. Woo told the radio.

As storms caused traffic chaos and accidents, authorities advised people against potentially risky journeys.

Thursday's outlook was no brighter, with more rain due, forecasters said.

## U.S. believes China diverted supercomputer, report says

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. officials believe China improperly diverted an American supercomputer to one of its military research facilities earlier this year, the New York Times said in Wednesday's editions.

The American officials said they determined two weeks ago that the computer did not reach its intended destination in Beijing. Instead, it was shipped to a defence and scientific research institute in Changsha, the Times reported.

Unnamed American officials told the Times that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has been asked to discuss the issue with China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, when they meet in Hong Kong this week.

In mid-June, China dismissed U.S. charges that it had diverted purchase of U.S.-made supercomputers for military use. China contended they were used for scientific research.

The supercomputer was made by Sun Microsystems Inc and was sold to a Hong Kong company, which resold it to a scientific institute in Beijing, the Times said quoting Under-Secretary for Commerce for Export Administration William Reinsch.

A sale to a scientific institute would not require a licence under the Clinton administration's 1995 policy on supercomputer exports.

However, Mr. Reinsch said that the United States determined on June 19 that the supercomputer had been sent to a military and scientific research institute, which would require a licence.

The U.S. Commerce Department is investigating the situation and the lack of a licence, Mr. Reinsch said.

Mr. Reinsch said that Chinese officials have been "somewhat helpful," but have turned down an American request to inspect the computer.

## Australia republic push regains spotlight

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's republican debate has resurfaced as a major political issue — and a possible early election trigger — after being pushed to the backburner by the conservatives' election win last year.

A poll Wednesday showed pro-Republic sentiment firming again after dipping following the landslide victory of avowed Monarchist John Howard over the Labour administration of Republican crusader Paul Keating.

The survey in the national daily, the Australian, showed support for this former British colony ditching Queen Elizabeth as head of state and becoming a republic bouncing back to 49 per cent — around the levels under Mr. Keating — after dropping to the mid-40s in the months after Mr. Howard's win.

Only 30 per cent opposed a republic, up two points on the Australian's last poll four months ago but more than 10 per cent down on separate polls a year ago.

After a year of relative obscurity, the emotive republican debate has been revived by political brawling over how to elect delegates for a national summit on the issue, originally planned for late this year.

Mr. Howard's Liberal-National Coalition has postponed the convention after leftist opposition parties in parliament's upper house, the Senate, forced changes to how delegates would be elected under legislation setting up the summit.

Half of the 152 delegates will be elected and the government wants them chosen by

a voluntary postal vote. But the Labour opposition and Australian Democrats want a compulsory, personal-attendance ballot, like all other elections.

The remaining 76 delegates would be appointed by the government, and would include Mr. Howard and several of his key ministers.

Mr. Howard has threatened an early election over the Labour-Democrats stand, which the constitution allows if the Senate again overturns the government bill.

Labour and the Democrats have also threatened to bypass the convention and push for a national popular vote on the republican issue, although Mr. Howard's overwhelming lower house majority makes that unlikely.

Mr. Howard said last week he remained committed to holding the convention, despite his own public opposition to this nation of 18 million people becoming a republic.

Although Australia is independent, its constitution was passed as an act of the British parliament and its head of state is the ruling British monarch, not an Australian.

Mr. Keating launched his push to sever Australia's remaining constitutional ties with Britain by the centenary of statehood in 2001, after he became prime minister in 1991.

He enraged local monarchists and the British media by telling Queen Elizabeth during a 1993 official visit to Britain that Australians no longer wanted her as their head of state.



## Plavsic vows fight 'all the way' to keep power

PALE (R) — Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic vowed to fight "all the way" to stay in power after gaining apparent army support for her condemnation of corrupt nationalist hardliners who control the government.

Mrs. Plavsic met threats by the ruling SDS party to replace her by making a 40-minute television attack on "shameful" smuggling deals which she said involved former President Radovan Karadzic, an indicted war criminal, and high officials.

"The consequence of this is an enormous accumulation of wealth by a relatively small number of our population," she said. "Do they think that the rest of the population will be their slaves?"

It was the first time that many in the Bosnian-Serb Republic had heard such frank criticism of Mr. Karadzic and his hardline supporters who led the 1992-95 war against Bosnia's Muslims and Croats.

Political sources said the broadcast might have been possible only because Mrs. Plavsic had the sympathy of some officers in the army, which controls the television system's transmitters.

The army has its own grievances against some leading SDS politicians whom it accused during the war of profiteering at the expense of badly-paid soldiers.

The Bosnian-Serb economy remains firmly under the control of Mr. Karadzic and powerful allies who include Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's collective multi-ethnic presidency.

The conflict between Mrs. Plavsic and the hardliners has simmered for months as a result of her campaign against corruption and accu-

sations by the SDS that she was too cooperative with international peacemakers.

It reached a crisis at the weekend when she tried to sack Interior Minister Dragan Kijic for refusing to investigate two suspect companies in which Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Krajisnik have a stake.

She also confirmed the international community's suspicion that Mr. Karadzic was still in charge of the Bosnian government despite efforts to push him out of public life because of his war crimes indictment.

The SDS leadership met in Pale Tuesday and said she overstepped her constitutional prerogatives by attacking Mr. Kijic.

It scheduled a meeting of the Bosnian-Serb parliament Friday to remove her and it ordered her in the meantime to turn power over to the Vice-President Dragoljub Mirjanic.

Mrs. Plavsic responded by telling her television audience she would "go all the way" in a showdown to retain the presidency.

According to the constitution, she cannot be removed by parliament but only by a referendum.

In the past, the SDS political machine always delivered Mr. Karadzic the electoral results he wanted but political sources in Pale said he appeared to have misjudged the extent of public support for Mrs. Plavsic and popular anger over poverty.

The Bosnian-Serb Republic survived the war only on handouts from neighbouring Serbia and it remains visibly poorer than its former foes in Bosnia's Muslim-Croat Federation.



Actor Robert Mitchum shown in a scene from the 1967 film *El Dorado*, died in his sleep Tuesday at his home in Santa Barbara, California. Mitchum had been suffering from emphysema and was diagnosed with lung cancer last year. (Reuters photo)

## Screen tough guy Robert Mitchum dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Robert Mitchum, the brawny, blunt-spoken actor who starred in more than a hundred movies including *The Story Of G.I. Joe* and *Night Of The Hunter*, died in his sleep Tuesday at his home. He was 79.

Mitchum, who had been suffering from emphysema and was diagnosed in spring with lung cancer, died at 5 a.m. at his Santa Barbara County home, family spokesman Jerry Roberts said.

Mitchum remained a star for a half-century despite a marijuana arrest in his early career, a number of other scandals and his open contempt for his directors and studio bosses. He brought his powerful presence to westerns, comedies, war movies and dramas, yet he never won an Academy Award.

"I always thought I had as much inspiration and as much tenderness as anyone else in this business," he said in 1983. "I always thought I could do better. But you don't get to do better, you get to do more."

He continued doing more well into his 70s, appearing in television dramas when movie roles were scarce. He appeared in the epic miniseries *The Winds Of War* and *War And Remembrance*.

He once remarked: "I think when producers have a part that's hard to cast, they say, 'send for Mitchum; he'll do anything.'" He added: "I don't care what I play; I'll play Polish guys, women, midgets, anything." But filmmakers realised they could rely on Mitchum for strong performances. He proved that in such films as *River Of No Return*, *Night Of The Hunter*, *Cape Fear*, *Ryan's Daughter* and *The Way West*.

His film career began in the early 1940s with his casting in Hopalong Cassidy westerns. In 1943 he began appearing in war movies such as *Gung Ho*.

*The Story Of G.I. Joe* in 1945 provided his ticket to stardom. As the valiant Lieutenant Walker in the film about Ernie Pyle's war stories, he was nominated for an Oscar as supporting actor. It turned out to be his only nomination.

Before Mitchum could cash in on his fame, he was drafted. Released on a dependency discharge after eight months, Mitchum returned to costarring roles in *Till The End Of Time* and *Undercurrent*, with Katharine Hepburn.

Disturbed by Mitchum's lackadaisical attitude and practical jokes, Miss Hepburn snapped, "you know you can't act, and if you hadn't been good-looking you would never have gotten a picture."

Mitchum proved her wrong in such films as *Crossfire*, *Rachel And The Stranger* and *Desire Me*. His granite face and gruff manner fit the public's taste for rugged heroes.

He also gained a reputation as a drinker and womaniser.

Mitchum's \$3,000-a-week career faced the danger of crashing in 1948 when he and a starlet named Lila Leeds were arrested on charges of possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to 60 days.

But he emerged from an honour farm with his usual jauntiness: "It's just like Palm Springs without the riffraff." He returned to filming and his popularity proved stronger than ever.

His overlay of cynicism made him ideal for RKO's film noir dramas of the '50s: *The Big Steal* and *The Racket*.

In 1955, he appeared in two of his most dramatic roles, as an idealist surgeon in *Not As A Stranger* and as a crazed Evangelist in *Night Of The Hunter*.

The westerns included *Track Of The Cat*, *Man With The Gun* and *The Angry Hills*. In 1960, he was in the family film, *The Sundowners*.

In the 1970s, he portrayed private eye Philip Marlowe in *Farewell, My Lovely* and *The Big Sleep*.

Mitchum told so many stories that it became hard to determine the truth. The facts of his birth: Aug. 6, 1917, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. His father, James, was a soldier and bar-room brawler who was Scotch-Irish and Blackfoot Indian. His mother, Ann, was a Norwegian immigrant.

Mitchum's father was killed in 1919. Mrs. Mitchum eventually remarried and settled in New York. At 16 Bob rode the rails to California.

During his wanderings, Mitchum claimed to have been a coal miner, deckhand, ditchdigger and professional boxer.

By 1937, Mitchum joined his family in California, and became involved in the local theatre. In 1940 he married his boyhood sweetheart, Dorothy Spence.

Despite rumours of his extramarital escapades, Mitchum and his wife — who survives him — remained married.

The Mitchums had two sons, Jim and Christopher, both actors; and a daughter, Petrine.

The funeral will be private, Mr. Roberts said.

## Tamil rebels mount probing attack on Sri Lankan army

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil Tiger separatists mounted a small attack on the Sri Lankan military's forward defence positions in the north of the country early Wednesday, but were repulsed, military officials in the north said.

They said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked the military's defences near Omanthai, 10 kilometres north of the government-held town of Vavuniya, but fled when the army fired artillery at them.

Vavuniya lies some 220 kilometres north of the capital Colombo.

Military officials said Sri Lankan Air Force Kfir planes later pounded the fleeing rebels, killing four of them.

A Defence Ministry spokesman in Colombo said

he did not have details.

An LTTE spokesman in London was not immediately available for comment.

Residents in Vavuniya said security had been stepped up in northern government-controlled areas after reports that the rebels were planning to launch bigger attacks on the military.

The LTTE launched two counterattacks in two weeks on the military last month. Scores of rebels and soldiers were reported to have been killed in fierce fighting at Thandikulam and Periyamadu, north of Vavuniya.

Some 20,000 troops, backed by tanks, artillery and air cover launched operation Jaya Sikuru, or Sure Of Victory, through the northern brush jungles of the Wanni to open a strategic highway linking Vavu-

niya to the Jaffna Peninsula, another 100 kilometres north.

But the offensive has slowed down after the rebel counterattacks. Official figures show that more than 300 soldiers have been killed since the offensive started on May 13. Several hundred more have been wounded.

The Defence Ministry says hundreds of rebels have also been killed or wounded in the latest offensive.

Anton Rajah, the LTTE spokesman in London, has said that the rebels would carry out more attacks in the future.

"The Sri Lankan army is in total disarray and will face many military disasters in the coming weeks and months. The LTTE is ever more powerful in numbers, equipment and determina-

tion," he told Reuters Tuesday.

The LTTE are fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east.

The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war, now in its 14th year. The LTTE say the toll is higher.

On Tuesday, the rebels attacked and torched a Sri Lankan refugee ship in northwestern Mannar. The ship's crew, which included two Indonesians, were abducted by the separatists.

The assault on the refugee ship followed an attack on rebel boats by the Sri Lankan navy off the eastern port of Trincomalee Monday. Four rebel boats, carrying medical supplies and arms, were sunk by the navy and two other were damaged.

## Mars probe set to make July 4 landing

PASADENA (R) — An American spacecraft is scheduled to crash-land on Earth's closest planetary neighbour Friday, Independence Day in the United States, to explore the dust and rocks of the red planet.

Once the Pathfinder spacecraft — actually three unfolding steel and graphite units — sets foot on the planet's surface, a dune-buggy type vehicle called the "Mars Rover" will roll down a ramp to begin its one-week survey, charting the composition and size of the Martian rocks, dust and debris in the area of Ares Valles in Mars' northern lowlands and looking for evidence of life.

The landing and the subsequent exploration of a tiny portion of the planet's surface by the rover will "lead eventually to human expedition to the red planet," according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

At NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, scientists were optimistic about their latest venture to Mars — the last was 21 years ago with the Viking orbiter and lander.

"We are going to be looking at a smorgasbord of different rocks," Matthew Golombek, the Pathfinder Project scientist told reporters at a news briefing Tuesday, referring to the wide variety of small rocks deposited during a huge flood millions of years ago.

It carved out a channel through the Martian mountains and left an "Aladdin's cave" of geological treasures.

One of the questions the scientists in Pasadena and their colleagues around the world hope to answer is whether there could have been life on the planet.

"Could life have developed on our neighbouring planet? That's one of the things we'll be looking at," Mr. Golombek said, adding that stable water, evidenced in Earth's oceans, was known as a source of life, while early evidence of stable water on Mars had not been found.

"By examining rocks in this region, Pathfinder should tell scientists about the early environment on Mars, which is important in evaluating the possibility that life could have been there," Mr. Golombek said.

Meanwhile, the scientists in charge of the Pathfinder mission admit that Friday will be a nail-biting, anxiety-ridden experience as they wait to learn if three-and-a-half years of hard work, experimentation and fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants innovation will work.

Their greatest concern, they admit, is that Pathfinder, launched on Dec. 4, 1996, will land in unknown terrain and in unknown atmospheric conditions.

## Kuchma accepts premier's resignation

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said Wednesday he had accepted Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's resignation.

"The resignation is accepted, and there will be a decree later today," Mr. Kuchma told a news conference when asked to confirm whether Mr. Lazarenko had resigned.

Mr. Kuchma, speaking at a joint news conference with visiting Czech President Vaclav Havel, said a new candidate for prime minister would be named after consultations with parliament, which has to approve any appointment by a simple majority.

Mr. Kuchma is also bound by the constitution to reappoint the entire cabinet of ministers if the prime minister resigns.

Presidential spokesman Dmytro Markov told repor-

ters that consultations between presidential administration officials and parliamentary group leaders had already begun.

Mr. Kuchma, under pressure for months to dismiss Mr. Lazarenko, issued a decree on June 19 appointing his deputy Vasyl Durdynets acting prime minister, a move which was widely interpreted as a step towards removing Mr. Lazarenko from power completely.

Some Mr. Lazarenko aides said the wording of the original decree, which said Mr. Lazarenko, 44, was being replaced because of illness, was just a ploy and that he was being sacked.

Mr. Lazarenko took over as prime minister in May 1996 from Yevhen Marchuk, who was accused of mishandling the economy and of self-promotion. In turn, he was blamed in part

for slow privatisation and failing to stamp out government corruption.

Western media have said that Mr. Lazarenko was behind Ukraine's biggest gas trader, the United Energy Systems of Ukraine, and alleged that he received \$200 million in revenues.

Mr. Kuchma has slammed Mr. Lazarenko's government for failing to push through reforms and this year's budget, which did not receive parliament's approval until June 27.

Potential replacements for Mr. Lazarenko include Anatoly Kinakh, head of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Serhiy Tyshchko, a deputy prime minister with an image as a youthful reformer, and Alexander Tkachenko, a prominent leftist in the conservative-dominated parliament.

## Poverty is the greatest threat to democracy in C. America — Forum

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Poverty is the greatest threat to democratisation in Central America since peace was reached with the 1996 Guatemalan accord, politicians from the region concluded during a forum on democracy held in Stockholm.

"Peace is essential, but not enough. We must have a new economic programme. We must concentrate our efforts and attack poverty," former Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said Tuesday.

Mr. Nieto made his comments during a panel discussion on democracy in Central America at the five-day conference attended by some 200 politicians and experts.

The event is hosted by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), a Stockholm-based organisation created in 1995 by 14 member countries with the objective of advancing democracy worldwide.

Since the signing of the peace agreement between opposing factions in Guatemala in 1996, all five countries in the region have adopted a system of democratic government and all are currently run by civilian presidents voted into office in "free and fair" elections.

But in order to maintain this development, it is essential that "political democracy be followed closely by economic and social democracy," Guatemalan Deputy Foreign Minister Gabriel Aguilera said.

"The Guatemalan peace agreement is very positive, but there are many things to do. Taxes must be collected and there must be regional economic solidarity," Guatemalan MP Nineth Montenegro said.

Mr. Montenegro also highlighted the need to reconcile different sectors of the population while at the same time eradicating impunity.

"For real justice we need a commission of clarification to investigate past abuses. This will not only bring truth and reconciliation, but also justice," she said.

The former foreign minis-

ter of El Salvador, Oscar Santamaría, agreed that there is much work to be done.

"Consolidation of peace and democracy is a fragile process. The rehabilitation of the state, the creation of a new model of a state which is economically sustainable must be created," Mr. Santamaría said.

The conference, which closes Friday, also covers such topics as the development of democracy in Africa, the current situation in Burma, the implication of democracy in Europe, the role of women in politics and the ethical and political challenges of reconciliation.

IDEA's 14 member countries are: Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Costa Rica, Chile, Denmark, Finland, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, South Africa and Sweden, as well as the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the International Press Institute and Parliamentarians for Global Action.

Botswana and Namibia have expressed an interest in joining, as has Canada.

## Shuttle blasts off on science mission

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The space shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts dodged thunderstorms and soared into orbit Tuesday to complete some unfinished business.

The shuttle blasted off in a brilliant display of fire and smoke at 2:02 p.m. EDT (1802 GMT), making its second try at a science mission aborted in April because of power trouble.

"Godspeed, Columbia," launch controller Jim Toobey told the seven astronauts by radio shortly before blastoff.

Forecasters Monday had given the shuttle only a 10 per cent chance of an on-time launch from the Kennedy Space Centre because of Florida's notorious afternoon thunderstorms. NASA officials took the unusual step of moving up the launch time by 47 minutes, hoping to

avoid the bad weather.

In the end, the shuttle made it off the launch pad only 12 minutes late. The countdown was held up briefly while a weather reconnaissance plane checked out a storm cloud south of the launch site.

It was the second ride into space in three months for Columbia and its crew. The shuttle's first attempt at the 16-day science mission in April was aborted after only five days aloft because of a troublesome electricity generator — only the third time NASA had ended a shuttle flight early because of a mechanical breakdown.

"We're very glad to have Jim Halsell and the rest of his crew back in orbit so they can finish the mission we got started but had to cut short," Shuttle Manager Loren Shriver said.

Workers at the Florida launch site prepared Columbia for a second attempt at the mission in near-record time. The \$2 billion reusable spaceship spent only 56 days in its hangar, instead of the usual 85 days.

The astronauts plan to perform 33 major experiments, including one in which controlled fires will be lighted to learn more about the way flame behaves in zero gravity. Only a small fraction of the experiments were accomplished during the curtailed mission in April and scientists were eager to see their experiments completed.

"We got a taste of that mission in April," mission Manager Joel Kearns said. "We saw that we could set up the experiments to answer the critical questions we're going to pursue on this two-week mission."

## 4 killed in Filipino jail riot

MANILA (AFP) — A toddler was found Wednesday, burned to death inside a cell following a gang riot that led to pitched battles inside the Manila City Jail, prison officials said.

Jail Warden Warlito Moseno said three inmates were also killed and 42 were injured when members of the rival Commando and Sputnik gangs engaged in a free-for-all with petrol bombs, improvised knives and shotguns, steel pipes and arrows Tuesday night.

The body of a six- to seven-month-old baby, apparently the child of a visitor, was found in the rubble of a gutted cell Wednesday by police who were sweeping through the compound to confiscate improvised weapons, said Arthur Lorenzo, the jail doctor.

A homemade bomb explosion triggered the fire that razed one of the cells Tuesday night. Thirty-eight visitors, some of them with children, were trapped inside the compound during the pitched battles, police said.

A police special weapons and tactics team fired teargas and warning shots to subdue the prisoners in one of the country's most crowded jails — more than 2,000 inmates are in a compound built for 800 people.

## 'Diana has not spoken with Fergie for eight months over book'

LONDON (AFP) — Diana, Princess of Wales, has not spoken with the Duchess of York for eight months over comments made her ex-sister-in-law in her ghost-written autobiography, it was reported Wednesday.

In *My Story*, the duchess wrote that she caught verrucas from wearing Princess Diana's shoes, praised Princess Diana's ex-husband Prince Charles as "an extraordinary person," and said Prince Charles often complained that Princess Diana should be more like her.

The former Sarah Ferguson ("Fergie"), ex-wife of Prince Charles' brother Prince Andrew, said she "shone brighter still when held up against Diana, who felt so wretched in every way."

"It must have been maddening to her — especially after Charles prodded her (and not for the first time): 'why can't you be more like Fergie?'"

In another passage Fergie wrote: "Diana helped me by giving me all her shoes (and less happily her verrucas) — we wore the same size."

The *Mirror* newspaper claimed that since the book's publication in November 1996 the pair have not spoken, with Princess Diana refusing to return letters and calls and banning her children princes William and Harry from seeing their 37-year-old aunt.

"It is quite disgraceful," a source at Kensington Palace, Princess Diana's London home, was quoted as saying in the paper.

"Diana has simply cut Sarah dead, Diana may bleed about betrayal but a lot of us at the palace believe it is she who has betrayed Sarah."

Celebrating her 36th birthday Tuesday — the first since her divorce from Prince Charles — Princess Diana was surrounded by younger members of the British royal family, but not Fergie or any of Prince Charles' brothers or sisters.

Her brother Earl Spencer, Queen Elizabeth II's nephew Viscount David Linley, 35, his wife Serena, and the queen's cousin Lady Helen Taylor, 33, and her husband Tim all attended the gala dinner to commemorate the centenary of Britain's foremost modern art gallery, the Tate in central London.

Princess Diana has had other well publicised feuds with her family, notably her own mother Francis Shand Kydd after she gave an interview to *Hello!* magazine. The pair are not on speaking terms.

A number of staff have also reportedly left her employ after furious rows, and she is widely suspected to resent Tiggy Legge-Burke, her sons' former nanny, for her close relationship with the boys.







## Society on the Move

## Achievements big and small

**BLACK TIE:** The marriage of HRH Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan to Ala Bataineh is set for July 17, with invitations long out to the two festive events of that night. The marriage ceremony (kaib al kitab) will take place at Manzal Al Hassan, the turn of the century home of the bride. In the early evening, Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will host a reception in honour of the newlyweds at Basman Palace. Later Their Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath will welcome family and friends to a dinner to celebrate their eldest daughter's marriage to the son of former Minister of Health Aref Bataineh and his wife Haifa.

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**ENVOYS EN ROUTE:** Unions of the diplomatic variety were sealed last week by Royal Decrees approving appointments and changes. Jordan's Ambassador in Athens Amjad Majali's request to resign was okayed. Mr. Majali will be contending a seat in the next parliamentary elections. From Cairo, Guatemalan Ambassador to Egypt Juan Alfredo Muldonado will also be non-resident ambassador to Jordan. Here in Amman, Stefania Khalifch, who has been Iceland's honorary consul to Jordan since 1990, was promoted to consul general. More news of on ties between the Kingdom and this Nordic country is expected soon. Two new honorary consuls of Jordan to European states were also approved: Wael Sharawi to Croatia and Dr. Farouq Azab to the Czech Republic. And finally, Abdul Hai Majali was appointed honorary consul of Malaysia at the newly approved Malaysian consulate in Aqaba. The reason for this, we learned, is that as Mr. Majali's previous service as honorary consul of Malaysia to Jordan was so much appreciated that even after Kuala Lumpur formerly opened an embassy in Amman, and Mr. Majali's post ended, the Southeast Asian country still wanted Mr. Majali to represent it. So now the Malaysian government has him representing it in its new Aqaba-based consulate.

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**'WHAT DID HE CALL US?'** Diplomacy was probably Al Ra'i columnist Fakhri Kawar's first line of defence in his publicly printed parley with Minister of Culture and Youth Qusam Abu Ein. It was obvious that Dr. Abu Ein was quite displeased with Mr. Kawar's reference to the ministry as a "football ministry" in one of his columns last week. So Mr. Kawar wrote back that he was surprised the minister would take offence and spend so much time on retaliating. But then again, Mr. Kawar also made an attempt to clarify his usage of the term "football ministry," saying football is a well-known game and its significance is not something to be disregarded. He went on to defend his use of the term as a "figure of speech," but said that he would search for a new descriptive term to truly describe the ministry. Whether the minister has accepted Mr. Kawar's definition and/or plans to search for a new one is yet to be revealed.

**MUTA MOMENTUM:** As is usual around this time of year, Muta University has announced new appointments of deans to several of its faculties and departments. What is of interest as well is that all the appointments are for "acting" deans, which could mean that the tenures of those selected may be as short as a year. In addition, all but one of the new acting deans are associate professors. The new line up is as follows: Dr. Adel Tweis, who was dean of Faculty of Science and Art of Muta's Maan branch, is now acting dean of Faculty of Art at Muta; Dr. Ali Qudaih, who was head of the Department of Physics, is now acting dean of Faculty of Science; Dr. Humid Zreikat, who was director of the unit of maintenance, is now acting dean of the Faculty of Engineering; Dr. Anis Khasawneh, was appointed dean of Research and Graduate Studies; Dr. Nouman Khatib, the only full professor in the lot, is now acting dean of Student Affairs (he had earlier served in this post for several years). Professor Khatib was also appointed assistant to the president for legal affairs. Dr. Abutu Tawailah is acting dean of the Faculty of Science and Art at the Maan branch; Dr. Khalid Tarawneh is acting dean of the Faculty of Agriculture; Dr. Mansour Saidich, is acting dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, and Dr. Majed Abu Jaber is acting dean of the Faculty of Educational Sciences.

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**MEDICAL SCORES:** News of medical circles abounded over the week. At the Jordan Neuroscience Society members elected a new board making Nayef Al Fayed president for a one-year term. Friday's election resulted in Ahmad Shihab of Jordan University Hospital becoming Vice President. Director of Palestine Hospital Nuri Khoury as Secretary and Marina Haddadi, also of Palestine Hospital, as Treasurer. Minister of Health Ashraf Kurdi attended the society's meeting and elections.

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**THE GPs:** The General Practitioners Association, which has been active since 1973, elected a new board last week and made Dr. Awni Hawamdeh president for a second two-year term. Backing Dr. Hawamdeh up are Dr. Khaled Maadi, as vice president, Dr. Salah Abu Al Rub, as secretary, Nabi Hirsh, Dr. Munir Abu Sinan as head of the scientific committee. Dr. Munther Khatib, Dr. Mohammad Kheir Ludada as head of professional affairs, and Dr. Yousef Fuqih, as treasurer. The association has a membership roster of about 6,000 general practitioners from all sectors working inside and outside Jordan.

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**DESERVED RECOGNITION:** Another Jordanian in medicine, working outside of Jordan, is a man from Ajloun who has made his mark on advances in nuclear medicine as

the recipient of an award as the best young specialist in his field in the United States. Malek Eid Jueid, is a graduate of Heidelberg, Harvard and Pennsylvania universities. In 1992, he passed his American Board of Medicine examinations, coming out in the top ten of the 120 doctors who sat for the exam. Now the director of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at a cancer research institution in the U.S. state of New Jersey. Dr. Jueid has more than 30 research studies to his credit and several published in prestigious U.S. medical journals, including the Journal of Nuclear Medicine. He was selected for the 1997 award for his work in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer using radioisotopes. Dr. Jueid's work was supported by a \$1.7 million grant from the American Cancer Society and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



Karen Abudayah, public relations officer for Fastlink, distributes luncheon plates to boys from the Haya Educational Centre at a charitable event sponsored by Fastlink and the Amman Rotaract Club last week. The 'fun day' was attended by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Kheir Mansour.

Circle in 1950s, just passed, with flying colours. England's Office for Standards in Education Inspection for 1997. Mrs. Bataineh, who is leaving Jordan to join her husband Brigadier General Jamal Bataineh, Jordan's new military attaché in London, says she is sorry to leave the ICS but is very gratified that it has proven itself. She and her two daughters await the arrival of Brig. Jamal who will accompany them to London on July 20th.

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**WARM AND SNUG:** On a smaller more intimate scale than the towering new hotels going up around Amman is a family owned property just off Mecca Street. The Marmara Hotel, owned by Rafiq (who also did the architectural design of the facility) and Tawfiq Kana'an, will open next week, offering only 30 rooms: 10 suites and 20 regular, but amply sized rooms. One surprise is that Swiss hotelier Ernest Liniger, who some thought had left Jordan, is the hotel's general manager and has been busy working on the menus for the new hotel's Merlin Restaurant; a cozy eatery with oak-wooded floors and seating a modest 60. Mr. Liniger's talents are also evident in touches here and there throughout the four-story building. A celebratory dinner to mark the opening of the Marmara for the Kana'an's friends last Tuesday put Ernest and his cuisine team to the test. By all accounts reviews were great!

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Amman half a century ago

*Story of a City: A childhood in Amman*  
By Abd Al-Rahman Munif; translated by Samira Kawar  
London: Quartet Books, 1996, 311 pages

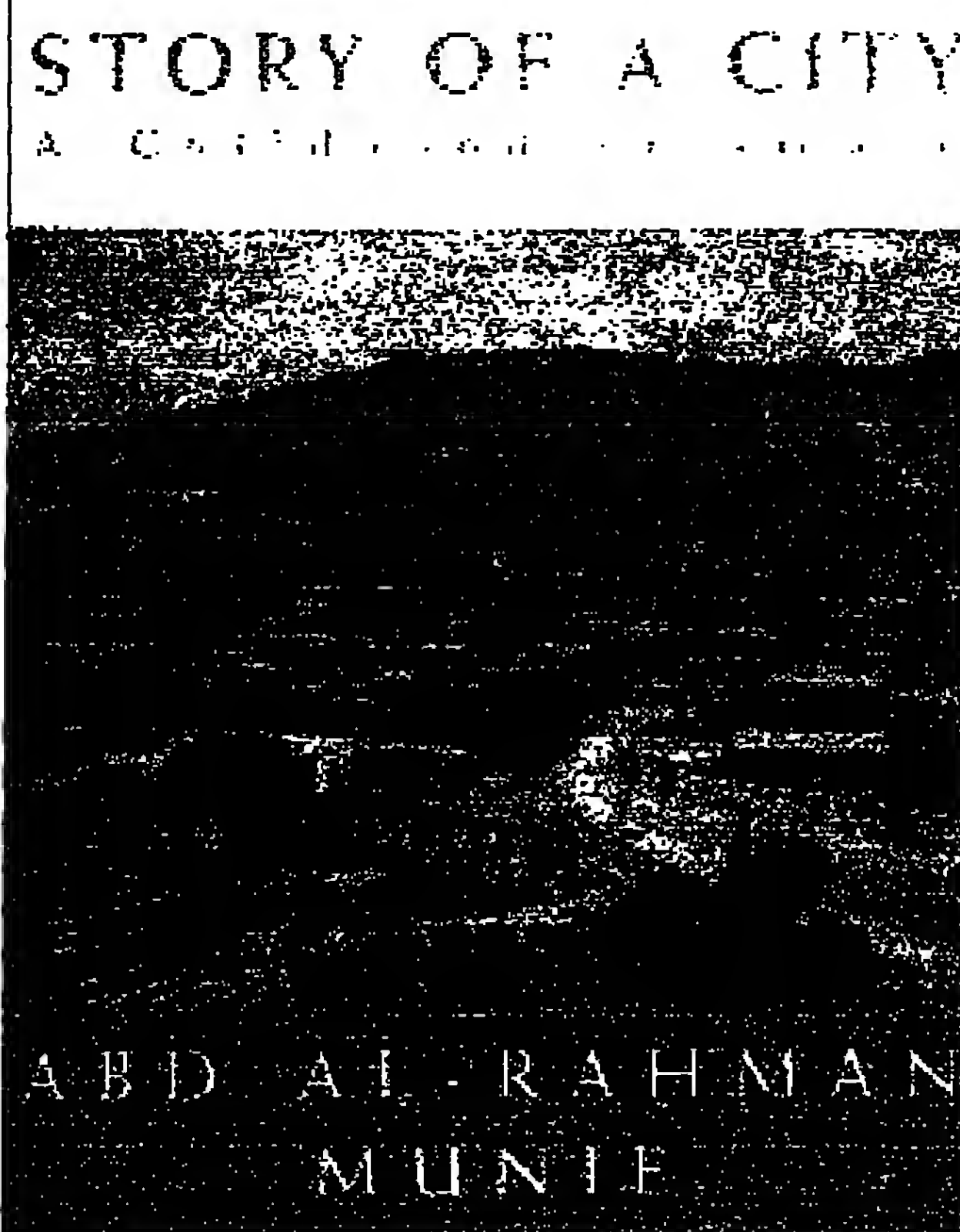
IN STORY OF A CITY, the acclaimed Arab writer, Abd Al-Rahman Munif, tells of his growing up in Amman. True to his vocation as a novelist, Munif does not indulge in the minute details of his own life and person. This is no autobiography in the usual series. Rather, as the first part of the title suggests, it is "the story of a city" — how it was to live in Amman in the 30s and 40s. In the initial section of the book, the author appears as "the child," then "the boy." Later, he disappears almost entirely from the narrative. His father is never mentioned; his mother only briefly. What we learn of the boy's home is centred on his grandmother.

She is a lively, perceptive, warm-hearted Iraqi woman who was obviously the emotional mainstay of Munif's childhood, and who always regarded her stay in Amman as only temporary.

The life of the city, on the other hand, is dealt with in rich detail — the games the children played, the professional and commercial activities of the residents, social customs and folklore, and the various religious and ethnic communities. An important place is accorded to education. This begins on the personal level when the boy is sent to Koranic school. "Many years later, that day would remain etched in his memory as though it had been yesterday," for he felt his mother had abandoned him to "the first prison" of endless rote learning and harsh discipline (pp. 35, 37).

The account of the boy's education takes on a more general character after he enrolls in Al-Abdaliyah government school.

By the time the boy begins at the Islamic Scientific College, it is the late 40s. The focus of the book has turned to the political atmosphere created in Amman by World War II and the Palestine crisis.



The theme of death unites the book. In the first chapter, the death of King Ghazi of Iraq leads the boy out of his neighbourhood for the first time, as he follows the adults

## BOOK REVIEW

who converge in King Faisal Street in reaction to the event. With this opening, the author quickly binds his own life to that of the city and society as a whole, and subtly indicates the close bond between Jordanians and their Arab neighbours. The book ends with the death of the grandmother when the boy, now a young man, goes to live in Baghdad, to which she has finally returned.

An even more powerful theme uniting the book is the interaction between humans and nature.

It might seem strange to centre a book about a city around this theme, but the Amman of Munif's childhood was more a village than an urban area.

The city limits hardly reached Jabal Amman on the West. The streets were unpaved, and children stayed home from school when there was heavy rainfall and the soil overflowed. Downtown was surrounded by cultivated fields and the peasants who worked the land lived in "the city," particularly the Circassians who returned home down the hills in their wagons each evening. Alongside religious activities, the weather, the harvests and the change in seasons were the major influences on people's lives — until economic hardships and the influx of Palestinian refugees changed the face of Amman forever.

Whether addressing children's feelings, nature's effects on humans, or broad socio-political changes, Munif sticks to his stark narrative style. One is often amazed at how compelling his prose is, considering the sparsity of his descriptions. With his minimalist approach to language, he succeeds in awakening our senses, provoking our thoughts, and taking us back to the fullness of the everyday life of the original residents of modern Amman. He fulfills his own definition of a city as: "Places, people, trees, the smell of rain, the earth and time itself in a state of flux" (p. V).

By Sally Bland

## Turkish grudges

*Cyprus: The destruction of a republic. British documents 1960-65*  
By Salah R. Sonyel  
Eothen Press, London 1997 (pb)

IN WRITING this book, Dr. Sonyel was apparently overwhelmed by "the very daunting enterprise" of condensing "countless documents for the purpose of short presentation." Which may explain why the Turkish Cypriot scholar made no attempt to develop any distinctive perspective in his account of the 1960-65 British government records on the Cyprus conflict. Instead, he provides us, in chapter one, with yet another "brief history of Cyprus" which, frankly, adds nothing to the originality, and weakens the credibility, of his work.

The rest of the book is, at heart, an eloquent exposition of what has been, since 1964, an all-Greek government of Cyprus, was little more than the product of political expediency, "the pusillanimous and self-seeking attitude" of the British in particular. Had Britain chosen, instead, to combine its might with Turkey's, so the argument goes, the

conflict would have been settled and Britain's prestige would have escaped unscathed.

It is an argument that can have only a limited following in Britain. In a 1995 essay, the late Sir Anthony Parsons explained why: "This would in practice have meant the forcible recolonisation of Cyprus, an unthinkable step for any British government in the 1960s."

But what was Britain's Cyprus policy in the 1960s? On this question, Dr. Sonyel's book is essential reading. The records provide ample evidence that the British were wary of compromising their own interests on the island, their sovereign base areas in particular. And that these interests were not fundamentally antagonistic to the Cypriot state. Hence, in their dealings with Washington, the British would stress the need "to avoid the impression of the larger powers ganging up on the small Cyprus Republic, as Sir Alec Douglas Home, the prime minister, once put it."

But Washington did not take long to decide that Cypriot independence was a "Western security threat." And, since the then kingdom of Greece was quite prepared to surrender not only Cypriot but also substantial chunks of Greek territory to Turkey, in return, the Americans became whole-

hearted advocates of Enosis, the union of Cyprus with Greece.

Britain, Dr. Sonyel shows, would not oppose such schemes, "to the extent" that Greek territorial concessions would minimise what a June 1965 Foreign Office minute described as "any contribution we might be prepared to make... to meet the Turkish requirements by concessions within the sovereign base areas."

As for Turkey, the British records indicate that it was probably less interested in the Turkish Cypriots than with strategic and territorial advances.

Conclusive evidence on such matters, Sonyel says, must await access to Turkish and Greek government records. He himself, of course, remains confident that the British, Americans and Greeks had all got it wrong, "because no Turkish government would dare accept Enosis (unless it was Enosis with partition) with impunity in the face of opposition from the Turkish electorate" — Middle East International.

Sergios Zambouras

## BOOK REVIEW

## Japan a bastion for the politically incorrect

TOKYO (R) — To the outside world, Japan is a paradigm of the politically incorrect.

Japan grabbed headlines this past week when it successfully lobbied at an international conference to lift a ban on ivory trade and pushed to be allowed to resume commercial whaling.

Diplomats privately admit that Japan often stands out as a perceived pariah at international conferences on these issues.

"We wonder why sometimes we end up being treated like Libya or North Korea," said one veteran government official who has attended past International Whaling Commission (IWC) meetings, the forum where Japan has battled for years to scrap the global moratorium on whale-hunting.

It is but one example of numerous Japanese attitudes that run counter to world trends.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto admits being a compulsive chain-smoker and often waves his cigarette packs in front of TV cameras, saying "this is the only reason I survive."

He created a furor earlier this year by smoking in public on national no-smoking day.

Visitors here are often shocked to see vending machines on Tokyo streets that sell child pornography magazines and there is an ongoing debate on how to crack down on teenage prostitution.

Unlike many countries where girls are forced into the trade to help earn money for food for the family, most of the young Japanese prostitutes are from middle-class backgrounds. Some say they do it to get extra money to buy designer clothing and handbags.

Even news weeklies intersperse pictures of naked women and features on navigating the seedy underbelly of Japanese society between their more serious articles.

In fact, the big debate in Japan a few years ago was over a long-standing ban on showing public hair in films and magazines, not about the proliferation of child pornography.

On the environment, Japan again appears out of step.

Japan has been chosen as the site for the 2005 World Exposition, which has an environmental theme. But the site's construction will involve cutting down much of a primeval forest.

And despite a series of recent accidents at nuclear power plants, Japan is ploughing ahead with plans to increase its reliance on nuclear power.

Some writers argue that Japan cannot really be faulted for these antithetical discrepancies because its culture is different from the West.

They note that there is no good Japanese translation for "political correctness."

"In Japanese, 'political correctness' sounds like someone is asking you whether you are a fascist or if you support democracy," said Akihiko Senda, a columnist at the daily Asahi Shimbun and one of the few to write about the subject.

A database computer search of Japan's major newspapers found that an article he wrote about "political correctness" in recent Japanese musicals was the only one on the subject this year.

He said there was a growing concern about sexism in such traditional Western musicals as "Annie Get Your Gun."

But he also found that the only reason for the new awareness was that 70 per cent of the Japanese audience for Broadway-style musicals are women.

"So this is a dire business factor, not a moral one, for the entertainment industry," Mr. Senda said, adding that the rest of Japan is taking a cynical approach to the term.

"One definition of 'political correctness' is how to avoid anyone making an issue out of the article you wrote," he said.



# Endangered languages

By Jean-Claude Elias

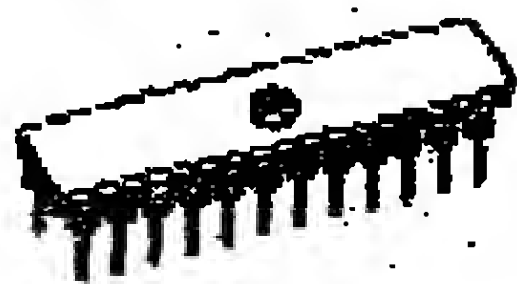
EACH TIME a major piece of software is launched on the world market, its first version, its "native" form as it is called appears in English. Even if the designer company is not based in the United States or in Great Britain, the software is released in English anyway. Recently, for example, I downloaded a very interesting programme from the Web site of a Swedish company — it was only available in English! Which was exactly what I wanted in the first place, for a Swedish version wouldn't have been of any use to me.

Microsoft and other giant software producers tend to release a "localised" version of any important programme, a few months after the original launch of the native, English one. For instance, every time a new Excel, Word or Windows appears, users in the Arab World have learnt to wait patiently for a few months until an arabised set is available. In other cases, when the original producer doesn't feel the need to write an Arab version, local companies in Jordan, or in other Arab countries produce their own Arabisation, with more or less success. This localisation issue of course, is not limited to Arabic. The same applies to any language other than English.

The problem is easier to solve for languages that use the Latin alphabet than for Japanese, Chinese, Arabic or Hebrew among others.

Recently however, the Internet revolution has put a new, more dramatic accent on the question. Because it is an on-line system and delays in development are unacceptable since they defeat the purpose of using such a network, some languages will suffer more than others on the World Wide Web (WWW). As unbelievable as it may seem, till now, and in spite of the tremendous success of Internet, Arabic is not available on the Web. Simply there is no justification for the tremendous development effort it will take to accomplish the trick. The WWW is anything but a static world and the software we use to communicate on it, browse and explore it, is being updated and improved

## chip talk



much faster than any other software. There is no way arabisation can catch up with the speed of change.

At this point I will not take bets on whether there will or will not be Arabic on the WWW. I recently had a heated discussion on the subject with other colleagues and computer specialists, in Amman. One of them went as far as to say that not only we will never have Arabic on the network but he also expects "the use of the Arabic language to disappear altogether in less than a century from now" (sic). He was saying that the Internet will be the exclusive way to communicate between nations and that the importance of English will be greater than it is already now. Many languages may fall into the "folklore" category.

Technically speaking the argument holds. New software will have more and more built-in intelligence, based on the very structure of the language used to implement it. How are all languages going to cope with the evolution? Currently only a few software giants — less than ten in the whole world I would say — have the resources to tackle such huge tasks as Internet software or intelligent programmes, and they are all based in English speaking countries. Reality however may prove to be different. The next decade will certainly shed some light on the global future of computer communications and on the situation of "endangered languages."

# Hurry to the Third Circle's closing down sale

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

I HAVE been directed to publicise the magnificent forthcoming auction of items left over following the closing down of the towering building operation at Amman's Third Circle.

Yes, there will be a Grand Closing Down Sale at which many valuable items of the contractors and the Amman Municipality will be available for purchase which have never been on the market before and probably never will again.

There is nothing like enough space to list everything in this wonderful end-of-work sale, but I think your appetite will be whetted by this small selection of just some of the lots which will go under the hammer in the near future:

Thousands of tonnes of earth and rocks suitable for filling the huge hole in our balance of payments.

Hundreds of posters reading "Third Circle closed off to traffic. We apologise for any inconvenience. We work for you!"

Hundreds of No-Parking signs which could be used as flying disks or Frisbees for our children to play with.

Hundreds of metres of tape intended to seal off the work area, but never used in the first place.

Thousands of tiles intended for paving but never actually used because there was not enough space on the sides of the roads to lay any pavements.

Thousands of pictures of the main project contractor in a serious mood.

One set of unique letters written to the Mayor of Amman during the past three months, including:

Letter from a local restaurateur complaining that his business has gone down the drain because of this project.

Letter from a local businessman complaining that his



shop will have to be sold off because he has not been able to sell anything in the past three months.

Letter from a local hotel owner complaining that he has not had a single guest in his hotel for three months.

Letter from another local hotelier thanking the municipality for making building this hotel's extension a much easier process.

Letter from the manager of a cement factory to the mayor thanking him for cutting down the trees and replacing them with cement blocks.

Letter from the local residents complaining about the lack of respect for pedestrians and trees under the new regime.

Plus thousands of other items: one dead worker's clothing, a pile of orange traffic cones, many unused cables and pipes, etc.

Everything must go, rather than get given back to the municipality.

Send for full list now.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 3, 1997

3:30	Holy Koran	8:30	The Churchills
3:35	Cartoons	9:10	Renegade
4:00	Tennis From Wimbledon	10:00	News In English
7:00	Le Journal	10:30	One West Waikiki
7:15	French Programme	11:15	Sisters

Monday, July 7, 1997

7:30	News Headlines	3:30	Holy Koran
7:35	Paranthood	3:40	Spirou
8:00	World Echo	4:05	Problem Child
8:30	Documentary	4:30	Blue Heelers
9:10	Kung Fu — The Legend Continues	5:00	Ocean Girl
10:00	News In English	5:15	Nature By Profession
10:30	Film	6:10	French Programmes
11:00	Taratata	7:00	Le Journal

Friday, July 4, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran	7:15	French Programme
2:05	Leo The Lion — Cartoon	7:30	News Headlines
3:00	Tennis Live From Wimbledon	7:35	Murphy Brown
7:30	Le Journal	8:00	The Giant Nile
7:15	French Programme	8:30	Babylon 5
7:30	News Headlines	9:10	Highlander
7:35	Family Matters	10:00	News In English
8:00	The Health Show	10:35	The Wright Verdict
8:30	Hawkeye	11:15	Homicide
9:10	500 Nations		
10:00	News In English		
10:30	Mini Series		
12:00	NBA		

Saturday, July 5, 1997

3:30	Holy Koran	7:00	Le Journal
3:35	French Programme	7:30	News Headlines
4:00	Final Ladies — Tennis	7:35	Coach
7:30	News Headlines	8:00	Tilt 23.5
7:35	Hanging' with Mr. Cooper	8:30	Encounter
8:00	Magazine Zero One	9:10	Nature Of Things (Documentary)
8:30	Prism	10:00	News In English
9:10	Time Trax	10:30	West Beach
10:00	News In English	11:15	Drug Wars
10:30	MacGyver		
11:15	Movie		

Sunday, July 6, 1997

3:30	Holy Koran	3:30	Holy Koran
3:35	French Programme	3:35	French Programmes
4:05	Tennis Men's Final — Live From Wimbledon	4:05	Captain Planet
7:30	News Headlines	4:30	Spell Binder
7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air	5:30	Border Town
8:00	Cinema. Cinema. Cinema	6:00	French Programmes
		7:00	Le Journal
		7:30	News Headlines
		7:35	Grace Under Fire (Doc.)
		8:00	Soldier's Diary
		8:30	Challenges
		9:10	Spenser For Hire
		10:00	News In English
		10:30	Land's End
		11:15	American Gothic

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

\*\* I haven't received his answer as yet.  
Lam atallaqa raddahu hattal-aan.

\*\* There is nothing wrong in his manners.  
Ma min ayb yashoob akhlaqahu.

\*\* You must make the best of both worlds.  
Yanbaghi an ta'mal ledoniak wa-aakhiretek.

\*\* I wonder who she is! Your wife? I don't believe it.  
Tura man takoon? Zawjatak? La osaddik thalek.

\*\* That goes without saying.  
Hatha la yajtaht ela eedah.

\*\* I should like to have forty winks.  
Arghab fee ighfa'a-ten qassira.

\*\* There are wheels within wheels.  
Honak quwa khafiya tal'ab dawraha.

### JOKES

• Why does he place both TV sets one after another?  
— To watch "Behind the News."

• Why does he give salutation when he enters the kitchen?  
— Because his fridge is General Electric.

• Why is he half-asleep with one eye open and another closed?  
— Because he took half a sleeping-tablet.

• Why does he put 13 TV sets one above the other?  
— So as to watch the whole series once and for all.

• A COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE paid a visit to a small town. Having finished his business, he thought of killing his time by entertaining himself.  
"Is there a cinema here?" he said to one of the natives.  
"No, sir."  
"A library?"  
"No, sir."  
"But how do you spend your leisure time in this place?" he enquired.  
"We usually sit against a wall quite opposite to the grocery, and watch the "Meat Section" there."  
"Are you laughing at me?"  
"No, believe me, the saleswoman inside that shop is one of the most beautiful creatures in our village."

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

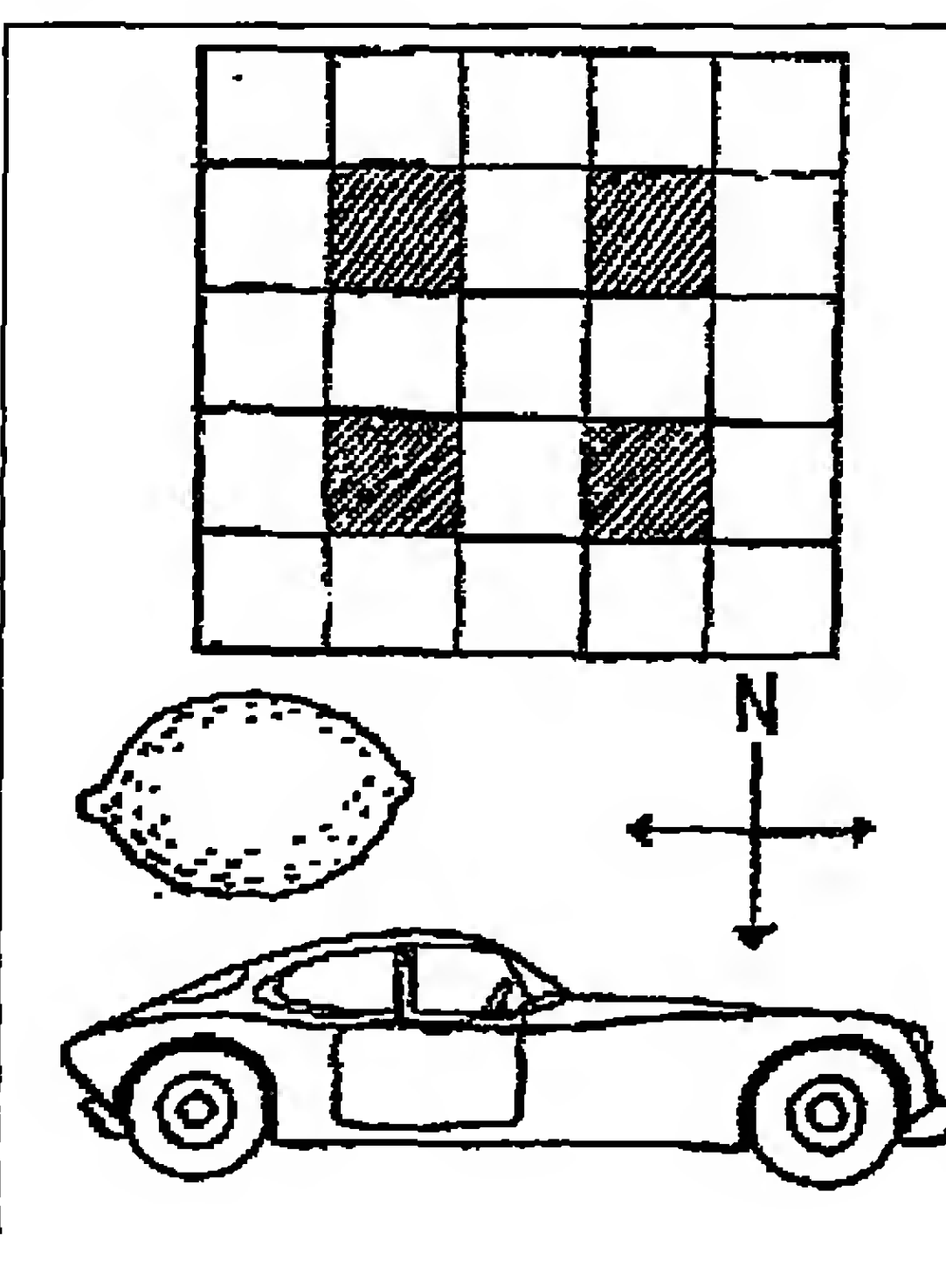
1. What four-footed animal cannot walk?
2. How much of the watermelon is water?
3. What animal is noted for building dams?
4. What mammal is able to fly?
5. Leveret is the young of what animal?
6. What tree is named for one of Jesus' disciples?

### PUZZLES

(A) TWO TRAINS start at the same time, one from London to Newcastle, and the other from Newcastle to London.  
They arrive at their destinations in one hour and four hours respectively, after passing one another.  
Compare the rates of the train.

(B) SAME DOWN & ACROSS:

IF you fit the answers across the square, you will find the same words reading down.



# Japanese brain scan can detect Alzheimer's

LONDON (R) — Japanese scientists said Friday they had found a way to use brain scans to diagnose Alzheimer's disease in living patients.

Currently the fatal and incurable dementia can only be diagnosed for certain with a brain biopsy — usually done after death.

But Doctor Toshiaki Irie and colleagues at the National Institute of Radiological Sciences in Chiba said they had found a way to use radioactive chemicals in an accurate brain scan.

Writing in the Lancet medical journal, they said they had made use of research that showed Alzheimer's victims had reduced activity of acetylcholinesterase, an enzyme that breaks down the neurotransmitter acetylcholine.

Neurotransmitters are chemicals that carry signals between cells and acetylcholine is associated with cognitive functions such as learning, memory and judgment — all impaired in Alzheimer's.

Dr. Irie's group injected five patients with

Alzheimer's with a radioactive but harmless chemical that attaches to acetylcholinesterase in the brain. Eight elderly but healthy volunteers were also injected.

They then used Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans to watch where the enzyme went.

All five Alzheimer's patients showed several regions with reduced activity of the enzyme.

This indicated less activity of the neurotransmitter, meaning the whole system was slowed down.

"As the duration of the

illness becomes longer, the number of regions with reduced regional cerebral blood flow increases in Alzheimer's disease," they wrote.

They said their method could not only be used to diagnose Alzheimer's in living people, but could help researchers understand the biochemical processes that underlie the disease.

"Furthermore, this method may also be helpful in developing and assessing new therapies such as cholinesterase inhibition," they wrote.

reforms

William Carlos Williams, Ame



# Three Chords And The Truth strikes a nerve in music city



Reba McEntire

By Jim Patterson  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — Do you care if Wynonna Judd had an abortion? Would it bother you if Mindy McCree's boyfriend is old enough to be her father? Would you believe Vince Gill has a nasty temper?

Three Chords And The Truth, Laurence Leamer's new book recently published by Harper Collins, purports to reveal the behind-the-scenes stories of some of Nashville's biggest stars — Garth Brooks, Reba McEntire, Alan Jackson and Judd.

Leamer left few illusions as exemplified by the chapter on rising singer Mandy Barnett.

"She was willing to try about anything. The first time she snorted the white powder, she liked it. She liked beer and whiskey. She liked menthol cigarettes as well, two packs a day. She liked food, too, and she started putting on weight. She started going out at night with her new friends — crazy, long, drug- and booze-filled nights. She had people hanging on her saying they were her friends, then hitting on her for a line of coke. She was too young to drink, but she was a star, and she could get what she wanted."

Leamer said Barnett gave him permission to talk about her drug use, and in context he says it helps build an accurate profile. He says he used such information only if it was character-revealing, and he said he agreed in

many cases not to reveal secrets.

Leamer moved from New York to Nashville for two years to research the book, which isn't his first attempt at celebrity profiles. He's written eight other books including The Kennedy Women and biographies of Ingrid Bergman and Nancy and Ronald Reagan.

He decided to focus on country music because he said stories like Barnett's were not being told and there was a false image about the country music industry.

"There are critics that are terrific, but literary journalism, there's very little of that. The kind of thing that A.J. Liebling did in New York, nobody's done that about Nashville, and I don't know why," Leamer said. "So I felt, there's an opportunity here, there's a whole subject that hasn't been explored."

he obtained medical records on Judd's alleged abortion.

He said he wrote about it only because the singer lied when she said during a television interview that she would never have one, and then mentioned another country singer who had.

Judd hasn't confirmed or denied Leamer's claim.

And then there's Reba McEntire.

"I mean, people know what Reba's like," said Leamer, who characterizes McEntire as out-of-touch with her fans and driving herself mercilessly to be ever more successful.

all the pressure had begun to exact its inevitable toll.

McEntire spokeswoman Jenny Bohler said she hadn't read the book, but disputed Leamer's contention that the singer was isolated from fans.

"The fact that he did not have access to talk to Reba made him very angry, and he wrote what he wanted to write," Bohler said.

Nancy Russell, publicist for Alan Jackson, Brooks and Dunn, and other country stars, refused Leamer access to any of her artists, but he did profiles of Jackson and Brooks and Dunn anyway.

"It's tabloid crap," Russell said. "I don't buy this whole line that he's doing it for idealistic reasons, that the fans have a right to know. I did not see Larry as someone who had a love for music. He's doing it to make money."

those outside of Nashville give it favourable review.

The New York Times said the book was possibly "the best expose of the inner workings of the slick machine that Nashville's country music industry has become in the '90s." Kirkus called it "an exhaustive journey into the heart and cash-glutted soul of today's country-music scene that overturns many long-held perceptions about the field — and its fans."

Still, Three Chords And The Truth has yet to appear on best-seller lists. Harper Collins spokeswoman Pam Pfeiffer said it was company policy not to release sales figures, but she did say a second printing was under way.

Bohler said maybe the reason for lackluster sales is that fans are rejecting the negative slant.

"I think a better title would be Three Chords And Half-Truths," she said.

## 'Persian Elvis' tries to break American music barrier

By Karen Lowe  
Agence France Presse

LOS ANGELES — In a country where women risk prison for undulating to Western tunes, Iranian rock singer Andranik Madadian is a dangerous element.

Bootlegged copies of his albums are turning up under women's black chadors covering miniskirts at illegal but trendy underground parties in Tehran.

"My music itself is a form of resistance because it is banned," said Madadian, who wore a red bandana across his forehead and black jeans and boots, at a chic Beverly Hills restaurant.

"Iranians are very sensual people," said Madadian, who is working on his eighth album. "My music excites people... It starts with passion and ends with passion."

Known to his fans as "Andy," his music is a blend of upbeat traditional Persian sounds and modern rock that is so sought after in his homeland that his fans are willing to risk jail and beatings to play his songs.

In a country where women must cover their bodies and head with black robes lest a body curve show, music and lyrics that could incite passion by evoking a woman's physical charms is downright subversive.

Madadian hopes newly elected cleric President Mohammad Khatami will lead Iran on a more moderate path and that the time will come when the songs that are now banned will be played openly in Tehran.

Before he left Tehran during the 1979 Iranian Revolution that toppled the Shah, the Armenian Christian was billed as the "Persian Elvis." Now, he's the "Iranian Bon Jovi," purred his relentless publicist

Irene Proctor.

"One look at ... Andy Madadian and one's sure he must be on God's A list. He has long, wild dark hair, chisled teeth, and jaw bones so sharp they could open a soup can," Proctor said in a press release.

For now, his concerts consistently sell out in Africa, the Middle East, Canada and Europe, where at some concerts, women have hurled their bras and T-shirts on stage.

Madadian, in his late thirties, lives virtually unrecognized on the streets of Los Angeles where he is working to crack the American music market. There are signs that he is making inroads.

His records, which once sold only in Iranian specialty shops next to cheeses and olives, now sell in Virgin Records stores. Universal Studios in 1994 named him the Persian Male Pop Singer of the Decade.

Still, beyond the Far-si-speaking community, American stardom escapes him.

But his popularity has spread via the three million Persian diaspora who fled after the revolution into Germany, Britain, Russia and Canada where he has managed to break the music barrier.

He will be making a music tour to Central Asia this summer highlighted by a sold-out stop for the 2,500th anniversary of Bokhara, Uzbekistan where his music tops the charts. In October, he will be in Germany, where he said he typically is warmly welcomed.

"I love it when blond German kids are singing my songs and they have no idea what they are saying... When the girls are crying, you know it's about love lost."

## THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

You come into the world alone and you go out of the world alone, yet it seems to me you are more alone while living than even going and coming  
— Emily Carr, Canadian artist and author (1871-1945).

Memory depends very much on the perspicuity, regularity, and order of our thoughts. Many complain of the want of memory, when the defect is in their judgement; and others, by grasping at all, retain nothing  
— Margaret Fuller, American critic and social reformer (1810-1850).

History must stay open, it is all humanity

— William Carlos Williams, American author and poet (1893-1963).

## \$1m film fails to raise Indonesian cinema from dead

By Linawati Sidarto  
Agence France Presse

JAKARTA — A film intended to revive Indonesia's dormant movie industry has received damning reviews from critics, and the government has been urged not to promote it at film festivals to avoid embarrassment.

The heavily Muslim-voiced film Fatahillah cost the city of Jakarta, which financed it, three billion rupiah (\$1.2 million), and was the most expensive Indonesian film ever made.

The government dubbed the project "the locomotive for the revival of the Indonesian film."

However, the two-hour movie, about a Muslim prince from Java who drove the Portuguese out from Jakarta by waging a Jihad, has been criticised for

wooden acting and halting sequences, culminating in a monotonously-shot final battle scene.

"The whole film is without personality," said film critic and chairman of the Jakarta Art Council, Salim Said.

He is not alone in his view.

"It was pathetic," said one film director, who asked not to be named, after watching Fatahillah with two colleagues.

Asked whether there was anything good about the film — its script, camera work, editing, directing — the three directors simultaneously said "no."

People connected to the film industry have discouraged government plans to promote the film at international film festivals, fearing it would only cause embarrassment for Indonesia.

The mainstream Indonesian film industry effectively came to a halt in the early 1990s, around the same time that the American Film Exporters Association began an aggressive drive to market its products overseas, with the backing of Washington.

That coincided with the introduction of five private television stations, which gave viewers additional entertainment choices after decades of watching a single state-owned television station.

In 1993, only two dozen movies were produced, compared to 120 in 1990. The following years did not see much improvement.

From those made, very few went beyond cheap eroticism, slapstick humour, and bloody violence under titles such as Ecstasy And The Effects Of Sex and

Forbidden Lust, films which have been immensely popular in rural areas, where the majority of Indonesians live.

Despite widespread criticism of Fatahillah, which opened in theatres last month, most in the film industry have been reluctant to comment on record, fearing for their careers.

"We are not willing to make any comments that could cause our future works to be barred," one director said.

Besides having to obtain permits from the bureaucratic Information Ministry, film producers also have to take into consideration that film distribution in Indonesia is effectively monopolised by businessman Sudwikatmono, President Suharto's cousin.

Reluctance to speak on the record has been exacerbated

by the fact that one common complaint was the film's over-emphasised and one-dimensional Islamic message.

One scene showed Fatahillah, in the wake of the final battle against the Portuguese, smilingly looking upon hundreds of his slain soldiers, saying that "they went straight to heaven" as they died for Islam.

While Indonesia is a secular nation, it is the world's largest Muslim-populated country, and criticism of anything connected with Islam is generally not taken lightly by the general public.

"I liked the film because it shows Jihad, defending Allah's religion," said Lila, a teacher at the Muslim Al Barkah Kindergarten, after watching the film.

Despite the bleak conditions, young directors such

as Garin Nugroho have managed to make films which have received recognition at European and Asian film festivals.

At home, only one of Nugroho's films has been shown in mainstream theatres, while the films of other young directors are generally seen by only a handful of Indonesians.

"It is not just that the quality of Indonesian films need to be improved, but the audience here also needs to learn to appreciate good local films aside from the cheap erotic ones," Said noted.

"Indonesian films already have such a rotten image among the middle and upper middle class film viewers here. Somehow this needs to change, but it will take a while," he said.

## Sri Lanka has red carpet out for filmmakers

By Mohan Samarasinghe  
Reuters

COLOMBO — What do films like The Bridge On The River Kwai, Tarzan The Ape Man and Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom have in common? They were all shot in Sri Lanka.

It may not be as important an industry as tea or as big an attraction as its endless beaches, but when it comes to providing the world's filmmakers with an ideal location, Sri Lanka has certainly made its mark.

"You can make a wide variety of films in Sri Lanka. This whole island is a studio," said Ainsley De Silva, director of Film Location Services, a company that promotes Sri Lanka as a film location.

"With the exception of snow, we have the rest of the terrain sought after by filmmakers — beaches,

jungles, dunes, highlands," De Silva told Reuters.

Tropical Sri Lanka, better known for its tea and an ethnic war between government troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels, has nevertheless been on the world film map since the 1940s.

It was picked by British director Carol Reed as the location for his film Outcast Of The Island, starring Trevor Howard and Ralph Richardson and based on a Joseph Conrad novel.

The Bridge On The River Kwai set the trend "but it was a good 10 years later that the tiny island became famous for its spectacular locations when, in 1956, director David Lean picked Sri Lanka for his World War II epic A Bridge On The River Kwai."

The film, starring William Holden and Alec Gui-

ness, went on to become a huge box office hit, prompting Sri Lanka to even preserve for posterity the set created for the film at remote Kithu-Igala, 80 kilometres east of the capital Colombo.

Much water has flown under the bridge since then. Elizabeth Taylor was here to film Elephant Walk, Bo Derek and husband John came more than once, to make their 1980 film Tarzan The Ape Man and the 1988 production Ghosts Can't Do It.

Steven Spielberg probably brought more publicity to Sri Lanka than any of the other filmmakers. The creator of Jurassic Park, Jaws and Schindler's List selected Sri Lanka to shoot one of his Indiana Jones trilogy — Indiana Jones The Temple Of Doom.

Americans, who did not have a clue where Sri Lanka was, came to know of the Indian Ocean island

as the "place where Indiana Jones was made," De Silva said.

There have been lesser known films too

Many other lesser known movies were also made here. The 1987 film Further Adventures Of Tennessee Buck starring David Keith and the 1988 film Iron Triangle with Beau Bridges and Oscar-winning Cambodian actor Haing S. Ngor were among them.

Rudyard Kipling's Second Jungle Book, a sequel to the box office smash Jungle Book was shot here last year. It is due for world release this month.

The company responsible for bringing almost all of these films to Sri Lanka is Film Location Services, founded in 1979 by Chandran Ratnam, who cut his teeth in this business when

he worked as a prop man in A Bridge On The River Kwai.

Ratnam and his company have so far brought 22 international productions to the island, according to De Silva.

"We promote Sri Lanka as a film location. In addition to providing the location, we also provide equipment, ranging from lights to portable toilets, transport and whatever else a filmmaker may need," he said.

In the 1950s, David Lean had to bring in a shipload of equipment for his Bridge On The River Kwai. Today, a director needs only to arrive with a copy of the script, he added.

Expansion into television production "the world does not have big films coming Sri Lanka's way every day. So we have expanded our work to television production as well."

De Silva said.

In television, Sri Lanka provided the locations for Mountbatten — The Last Viceroy and more recently Mother Teresa — In The Name Of God's Poor.

The productions earn Sri Lanka valuable foreign exchange, in addition to creating hundreds of jobs for film extras and production crew.

"If the entire shoot of a million-dollar production is done here, Sri Lanka's take amounts to about half of that," De Silva said.

Foreign films expose local actors and technicians to the latest technology and trends in the industry.

"Our people getting an opportunity of working in a Hollywood studio is most remote. Here in one production, about 30 to 40 technicians and many actors get that opportunity," said Ravindra Randeena, president of the Sri Lanka Film Actors' Guild.

## First all-Asian Shakespeare play toys with political change

By P. Parameswaran  
Agence France Presse

SINGAPORE — An all-Asian professional cast will for the first time enact a play by William Shakespeare that its British director says will conjure up images of political situations in Asia in the next millennium.

The tragedy "Hamlet," about a legendary prince of Denmark, by the master English playwright, will be "re-imagined in an Asian context" and largely deals with the role and threat of violence in political change.

"It's an all-Asian production of a Shakespeare play which examines a political situation very reminiscent of political sit-

uations which may face Asia in the next century," Barry Kyle, the popular British director, told AFP.

Hamlet, whose cast went through auditions in San Francisco, New York, London, Los Angeles and Singapore, will be staged in July by the Singapore Repertory Theatre Ltd.

Kyle, who has directed top British stars including Ben Kingsley, Helen Mirren and Jeremy Irons, said the production was timely with Britain's handover of Hong Kong to China on July 1 and the current debate about how rapidly-growing Asian economies will tackle political change.

"The future of Hong Kong rests on trying to match a 21st century soci-

ety with an early 20th century philosophy, that is Leninism. All the world knows that this will be very difficult."

"Similarly, in Hamlet, an attempt is made to revolutionise a political system without violence. This is what Hamlet attempts to do. He fails. The play ends with the triumph of political force," Kyle said.

Kyle, who served as associate director for 18 years at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon and has since moved to the United States, is confident events in the play would strike many in Asia as "interesting, even prophetic," as they contemplate the future of Hong Kong.

The Asian setting to the

play, to be held outdoors, will be reflected in the costumes, props and the set.

Kyle said the text of the play was not altered. What is changed is the society and the world in which it is set.

And that is the world led by a strong authoritarian leader, Claudius, and his nephew Hamlet who has received a special insight into the corruption and rottenness of the system run by his uncle.

The Singapore production is from a young generation, highly influenced by Western ideas of democracy and freedom of thought and this represents an inevitable clash of values.

Shakespeare's Hamlet is about the Danish prince who was robbed of the throne by his uncle

Claudius who went on to marry his mother Gertrude after murdering his father.

"I think the twist we are trying to develop with this production is to explore the counter-cultural role of the character of Hamlet," Kyle said.

The story also deals a lot with the experience of a young generation educated overseas. Hamlet and many of his friends are educated at the great European University of Wittenberg and are subject to many new cultural and intellectual influences which they then bring back to their native country.

"This means that Hamlet shows the great changes which countries face when such multi-cultural influences come up against the

political establishment. Many young Singaporeans will recognise that part of the story," Kyle said.

Hamlet, arguably Shakespeare's greatest work, marks the beginning of the Singapore Repertory Theatre's Shakespeare in the park series, already a strong part of the cultural life of New York and London during summer.

"This is the first time such a series is being transplanted into Asia," said Jeannine McMahon, the theatre's marketing executive.

"This is also the first time an open air production of this calibre has been organised and we intend to make it an event to remember," she said.



# Sex-change women offer clues to obesity — researchers

By Maggie Fox  
Reuter

DUBLIN — People undergoing sex-change operations could offer important clues to why women find it so much harder to lose weight than men, Dutch researchers said.

Jolanda Elbers and colleagues at Amsterdam's hospital Vrije Universiteit said it seemed the male hormone testosterone suppressed levels of leptin, a hormone strongly linked to body fat.

Women given testosterone as part of their treatment before undergoing sex-change operations to become men saw leptin levels crash, Dr. Elbers told the eighth European Congress on obesity.

The change in leptin levels was much less noticeable in the men who were given the female hormone

oestrogen as well as testosterone-suppressing drugs.

"The mostly likely explanation is that testosterone lowers serum leptin levels," Dr. Elbers said.

But the body seems loath to give up its fat. The 15 women transsexuals still had higher levels of body fat than the 17 male-to-female transsexuals, she said.

Women are known to have more leptin in their blood than men, women have more body fat, and more of the clinically obese people around the world are female than male.

Scientists agreed women have more body fat to make sure they and their fetus do not starve during pregnancy, Dr. Elbers said leptin could be a component of this process.

The level is probably set in puberty, which is why male-to-female transsexuals cannot gain enough body fat

to have a truly feminine appearance using hormone treatment alone.

"Maybe it is important to have sex steroid hormones in a critical period of pubertal life," Dr. Elbers said in an interview after her presentation.

Another study found that while obese men do very well on a very low calorie diet and exercise, women — especially those with families — do not benefit as much.

Jarl Torgerson and colleagues at Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden tested 113 obese men and women over two years and found that while the men lost an average of 15.5 kilograms, the women lost much less.

Family size seemed to be a big factor, and while men responded better to a very low calorie diet of 450 to

600 calories a day, women responded equally to either such a severe regime or a more moderate diet over a longer period.

Dr. Torgerson said it could be a difference in the attitudes and circumstances of men.

"The very low calorie diet sort of more appealed to their fighting spirit — apart from the fact that they don't have to be in the kitchen all the time," he said.

Other findings presented at the conference confirmed long-held opinions that diet works better when combined with exercise.

Franco Contaldo of the University Federico II in Naples said studies had shown a high-fat diet could obliterate the effects of exercise.

"Eating less does not necessarily mean eating better," he told the congress.

# Researchers find enzyme affects ageing process

By Andrea Orr  
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Researchers have said they had found an enzyme that appeared to play a role in the pace at which various organisms age and when they die.

They said the enzyme is found in virtually all life forms and in every tissue in the human body, with particularly high concentrations in the brain.

Although it does not explain all of the mysteries of ageing nor offer hope for developing anything like a youth potion, doctors said it could potentially be used in developing treatments for certain age-related disorders like cataracts and Alzheimer's disease.

The research was conducted at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), where doctors genetically engineered mice so their bodies did not have any of the enzyme, known as PCMT or L-isoaspartyl methyltransferase.

The enzyme-deficient mice were smaller than normal mice and all suffered seizures and died before they were 60 days old, the equivalent of late adolescence in a mouse's lifespan.

While previous studies had established the enzyme played a role in the repair of damaged proteins in the laboratory, it

had not been shown to affect an organism's overall ageing process. These new findings were published in the June 10 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"When we looked at the mice that we had genetically engineered on a biochemical level, we found that there was a large increase in the number of damaged proteins in their cells compared to normal mice," said the author of the study, Dr. Edward Kim, a postdoctoral fellow at the UCSF-affiliated Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease.

Dr. Kim said the enzyme appeared to work by recognising defective proteins and repairing them so they could continue to function.

"There are several theories about how and why cells age, among them that a cell ages when it can't rid itself of its garbage — such as defective proteins," Dr. Kim added. "In this study, the brain cells seemed particularly sensitive to the accumulation of aged proteins."

Dr. Kim said there could also be external reasons for a cell's ageing, such as exposure to carcinogens or other environmental factors. But he said a number of age-related diseases like cataracts and Alzheimer's were characterised at least in part by a buildup of damaged protein in the affected tissue.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CONFEDERATION

By Don Johnson

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Diagramless, 17x17  
By Harold B. Counts

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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# World could be free of polio by 2000 — WHO

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The world could be free of polio by 2000, provided efforts to eradicate the virus accelerate, according to a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) report.

Immunisation campaigns must also be stepped up in "traditionally major reservoirs of the disease" like Egypt and Pakistan, according to WHO's Polio: The Beginning Of The End report.

The Western Hemisphere was declared free of poliomyelitis in 1994, but the region must continue its immunisation campaign to avoid epidemics due to imported viruses, the Pan-American Health Organisation (OPS) said.

The number of reported indigenous polio cases in China fell from 667 in 1988 to zero in 1996 after massive immunisation campaigns. Three cases of polio were imported into south-west China from Burma.

"If progress continues at the present pace, wild polio viruses could be eradicated from the world by the year 2000," said Doctor Harry Hull, head of the WHO-led Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

After the 1988 campaign, polio incidence plummeted globally by almost 90 per cent, from an estimated 350,000 cases in 1988 to just 3,755 cases in 45 countries in 1996.

The biggest obstacles to total eradication are "social disintegration and conflict" according to Dr. Ralph Henderson, WHO assistant director-general.

"Afghanistan, Albania, Chechnya, former Yugoslavia, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan and Central Africa" are among the regions in which the disease is still a major problem, he said.

The world will save \$1.5 billion a year when polio — which attacks the central nervous system and can cause paralysis and death by asphyxiation — is finally eliminated, who said.

Big strides have been made towards that goal. India vaccinated 83 million children in two days in 1994 and China immunised 127 million children in 24 hours in 1997, WHO said.

And between late 1996 and early 1997 more than 250 million children were vaccinated in Asia, while 400 million were immunised throughout the world in 1996.

Some 50,000 people a year died or were paralysed due to polio prior to Jonas Salk's discovery of an injectable vaccine in 1955 and Albert Sabin's 1961 discovery of an oral vaccine against the disease.

In 1996, there were 1,898 cases of polio reported in Africa; 1,034 in southeast Asia; 373 in the eastern Mediterranean region; 261



Ralph Henderson, assistant director general of the World Health Organization, gestures during a press conference at the United Nations in Geneva. The fight to rid the world of polio by 2000 is on track despite political turmoil and wars, the World Health Organisation said (Reuter photo).

# Study shows two-drug therapy helps HIV children

**U.N. figures on AIDS/HIV**

BRUSSELS (R) — The United Nations has released the following figures as it launched a campaign entitled: "Children living in a world with AIDS."

(HIV is human immunodeficiency virus, the virus that leads to AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Global estimates on HIV/AIDS at end 1996:

People living with HIV/AIDS	22.6 million
New infections in 1996	3.1 million
Deaths due to HIV/AIDS in 1996	1.5 million
Cumulative number of HIV infections	29.4 million
Cumulative number of AIDS cases	8.4 million
Cumulative number of deaths	6.4 million

Regional breakdown of HIV/AIDS at end 1996:

Sub-Saharan Africa	14 million
South and South East Asia	5.2 million
Latin America	1.3 million
North America	750,000
Western Europe	500,000
Caribbean	270,000
North Africa/Middle East	200,000
East Asia/Pacific	100,000
Eastern Europe/Central Asia	100,000
Australia/New Zealand	50,000
Global estimates on children with HIV/AIDS at end 1996:	13,000

Children living with HIV/AIDS

New infections in 1996	830,000
Deaths due to HIV/AIDS in 1996	400,000
Cumulative number of HIV infections	350,000
Number of children who lost mothers	2.6 million

anti-HIV drugs."

It noted that in many cities in the northeastern United States "HIV disease is the leading cause of death among children aged two to five."

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the study, halted

**ANSWERS**



## Majali's popularity drops slightly after 100 days in government - poll

(Continued from page 1)

solve the poverty problem compared with 28 per cent in March.

It added that 40.7 per cent of them said that the government was not able to solve the problems compared with 60.5 in March.

It added that 65.6 per cent said that the government is able to develop its foreign policy compared with 69.5 per cent in March. Only 8.1 per cent said the government was not able to do so compared with 8.7 in March.

The poll, which was conducted in June shows that 50.4 per cent believe that the government was able to fight corruption and maintain administrative reform compared with 51.1 per cent in March.

Only 24.9 per cent believed that the govern-

ment was not capable of uprooting corruption and improving administrative reforms compared with 30.2 in March.

The poll said that 54.9 per cent of the pollsters believe the government has started preserving democracy and public freedom compared with 56.4 per cent in March. Only 19 per cent said the government is not able to maintain democracy and enhance public freedoms compared with 19 per cent in March.

The poll indicated that 41 per cent said they believe the government is able to expand the freedom of press compared with 41.4 in March. Only 24.6 per cent believed the government is not able to maintain the freedom of press compared with 31.2 in March.

Only 55.9 per cent of the

pollsters believed the government intends to prepare for an honest and neutral parliamentary elections compared with 57.8 per cent in March. Only 13.5 said the government was not able to ensure an honest election compared with 15.9 in March.

Regarding the government's endeavour to deepen national unity, 59 per cent said the government was able to ensure and deepen national unity compared with 61.7 per cent in March. Only 14 per cent doubted the government's intentions regarding this issue compared with 15.7 per cent in March.

40.8 per cent said the government was able to improve the living conditions of low-income citizens compared with 31.5 per cent in March. Only 38.5 per cent said the gov-

ernment was not able to achieve this goal compared with 55.2 per cent in March.

The poll also showed that 36.4 per cent said the government was able to confront the Israeli settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip compared with 38.4 per cent in March. 32 per cent said the government was not able to face the Israeli settlement policy compared with 35.1 per cent in March.

On the Kingdom's endeavour to improve ties with other Arab countries, 79.4 per cent said that the government has started to enhance its ties with Arab states compared with 83.1 per cent in March. Only 7 per cent said the government has not started to do so compared with 7 per cent in March.

## Hebron, Gaza clashes claim Palestinian life

(Continued from page 1)

dozens of Palestinians running a makeshift assembly line funnelled petrol stored in a large bin into empty cola bottles and topped them off with a bit of cloth. Teenagers lit the homemade Molotov cocktails and ferried them to the frontlines to be hurled at Israeli troops.

Witnesses said Israeli bulldozers worked during the night, shovelling bricks to block entrances to the 20-metre long alley in the Israeli-controlled section of the divided town.

Israeli police are

holding a 25-year-old Jewish woman suspected of pasting posters on Hebron storefronts insulting Islam and the prophet Mohammad.

In Gaza, dozens of Palestinians demonstrated near the Gush Qatif settlement bloc after Jewish settlers began work on a strip of land Arabs said belonged to Palestinians.

Troops opened fire with bullets and stun grenades to disperse the protesters, wounding one in the chest.

Witnesses said Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police had dug in opposite one another near the area.

"The situation is very

bad and the Israeli army is behaving as if this is an Israeli military base," Khaled Abu Leila, Palestinian military liaison chief in Gaza, told Reuters.

Jewish settlers said in a statement the land belonged to Jews and accused Palestinians of attempting to seize it.

Israeli troops have clashed with Palestinian protesters almost daily since Israel's groundbreaking of a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem last March plunged peacemaking with the PNA into crisis.

Israel handed over 80 per cent of Hebron to PNA-rule in January but troops stayed on to

guard 400 Jewish settlers who live in fortified enclaves in the heart of the city revered by Muslims and Jews as the burial place of the biblical Abraham.

## Martin Indyk's appointment...

(Continued from page 1)

He later reemerged as a scholar and high profile official at — the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) — the strongest pro-Israeli lobby in Washington.

In the early nineties, he was appointed as director of the Washington Institute for Near East Affairs — long believed to be an AIPAC front — that has become one of the most influential think tanks in Washington. During the Washington rounds of the Israeli-Arab talks, between 1991-1993, Mr. Indyk's briefing and press statements were instrumental in setting the stage for the Israeli negotiating position.

His views were not very different, at that time from the ruling Likud Party.

Mr. Indyk's writings argued for a stronger Israel, that the Palestinians should not dictate any terms but accept whatever Israel offers them and for a containment of Iran and Iraq.

When Mr. Clinton won the elections, after a very pro-Israeli campaign, Mr. Indyk was appointed on the National Security Council where his ideas were put to work. "The dual containment" of Iran and Iraq became a cornerstone of American foreign policy — although it is being challenged by many in the U.S., who now argue that American business is the loser.

Later he was appointed as the U.S. ambassador to Israel where he distanced himself from hardline Israeli positions incurring the wrath of some Israeli extremists, and at the time, the criticism of the World Zionist Organisation.

According to diplomats and academics who know Mr. Indyk well enough, the scholar-turned-diplomat does not deny his strong commitment to what he views as Jewish interests. He is said to distinguish between Jewish interests and some of the Israeli policies, which in his view, could jeopardise these Jewish interests.

In the world of American politics, Mr. Indyk is not an anomaly. Commitment to ensure the welfare of Israel, even if that meant disagreeing with some Israeli policies, is not viewed in Washington or the mainstream media to represent a clash of interests. After all, the dominant view is that maintaining the Israeli strategic edge is consistent with American interests.

Even the fact that the former lobbyist — representing a foreign country's interest — is cruising from one sensitive post to another, has not provoked any serious reaction.

According to Khalil Jahshan, President of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), the administration could afford to make such appointment because it takes the Arab governments for granted.

"The real problem is that the Arab World does not take a stand. The Arab World is a coward and is always willing to accommodate the American

administration," Dr. Jahshan said.

Another analyst, who is close to the State Department, said that American officials are used to the "noises" that Arab officials make, but hardly ever reflect a stand or a policy. Arab-American leaders also believe that Arab constant reaction of singling out Jewish officials in the administration, to blame for U.S. bias, are perceived as "anti-Semitic" remarks that are both incorrect and counterproductive.

"The problem that we have with Indyk is not that he is a Jew, but that he is a former pro-Israeli lobbyist," Dr. Jahshan explained.

In the final analysis, according to Dr. Aruri and Dr. Jahshan, it is time for the Arab World to face the fact that the appointment of Mr. Indyk and other pro-Israeli officials is only a symptom of the real problem that lies in a U.S. policy: it does not take into account Arab interests and aspirations.

## Egypt will stop peace mediation soon

(Continued from page 1)

in negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, which have not been held in over three months.

"In the past few weeks, there were some contacts between the Israelis and Palestinians. I am not in a position to reveal any of that ... [but] I hope they could

conclude something within a week," he said.

Cairo has been trying to mediate in the dispute for over a month, but the Palestinians have repeatedly accused Mr. Netanyahu of making no response to Egyptian efforts.

Mr. Mubarak's envoy Osama Baz, who has been spearheading the mediation

effort, delayed a new shuttle expected this week because of an ongoing political crisis in Netanyahu's government, the Egyptian news agency, MENA, said.

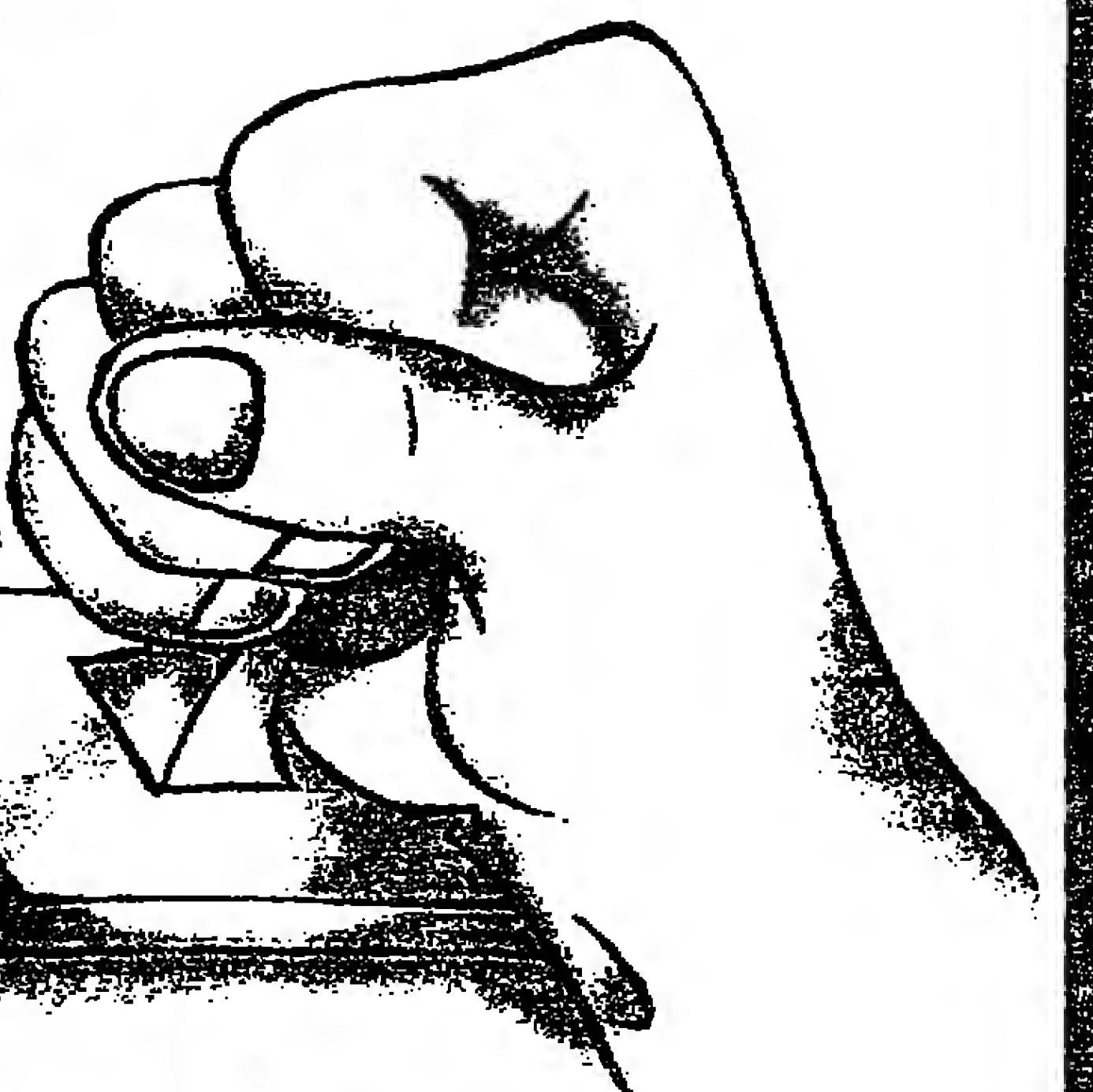
But Mr. Abdul Rahman said Mr. Mubarak had called off the shuttle because Israel "has not shown any seriousness in ending the crisis."

The Palestinians have

boycotted negotiations since Israel began construction in mid-March of a new Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

They have refused to return to talks unless Israel orders a halt to all settlement expansion, including in Arab east Jerusalem. Mr. Netanyahu has repeatedly refused the condition.

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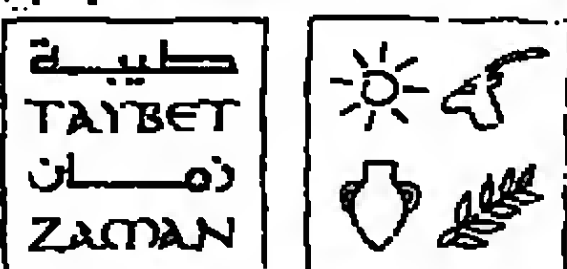
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# Jordan, U.S. sign investment accord

By Ghaila Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an effort to strengthen economic relations between Jordan and the United States, both countries Wednesday signed a bilateral agreement on the encouragement and reciprocal protection of investment.

This agreement, which is the 39th such accord governing investment between the U.S. and its trading partners, follows the recent government decision to abolish the non-Jordanian equity ownership ceiling in six sectors in a bid to increase the flow of foreign capital into the Kingdom.

"The agreement emphasises the desire to promote greater economic cooperation between the U.S. and

Jordan, and allows the free access of investors from both countries into the territory of the other," Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki told reporters after signing the agreement with the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley W. Egan.

Dr. Mulki stressed that the agreement will stimulate the flow of private capital as well as maximise the utilisation of economic resources with the objective of improving the living standards of people in both Jordan and the U.S.

"As we are going into the industrialisation of our country, we will be doing this at the highest level of standards, protection and at the maximum output that would benefit both our countries," Dr. Mulki said.

Wednesday's signing seals the agreement reached between Jordan and the U.S. during His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Washington in April.

During his visit to Washington, King Hussein reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to the economic reform programme which aims at strengthening the country's economy and attracting further capital for investment in development projects.

Mr. Egan told reporters that this agreement aims at facilitating investments in both Jordan and the U.S. and encouraging market-oriented domestic policies which treat private investments fairly.

"And in doing so, [the agreement] help[s] support the efforts to create a sys-

tem of international law and standards that we can apply globally to the movement of investment capital," he said.

Noting that the flow of investment far exceeds the value of international trade around the world, Mr. Egan said the agreement "is a tool for development and a tool for the expansion of domestic economies and the appropriate domestic policy structures as well as it is a tremendous advantage to the businessmen and investors of Jordan and the U.S."

The agreement grants investors from both countries the right to move their capital freely.

Under the agreement, both sides grant each other the "most favoured nation" (MFN) status.

This guarantees a treat-

ment for incoming goods or investments no less favourable than that accorded to the equivalent locally-produced goods.

Mr. Egan added that Jordan and the U.S. will soon start a series of discussions related to intellectual property rights and trademarks.

According to a U.S. embassy statement made available to the Jordan Times, Wednesday's agreement underscores U.S. support for Jordan's continuing economic reform efforts to create an investor-friendly business climate.

The statement said the U.S. also welcomes other recent steps such as stream-

lining investment procedures, tax and investment incentives, reducing tariffs and liberalising foreign currency regulations.

It added that for American companies and for American institutional investors, this agreement will make Jordan a more attractive investment opportunity.

Jordan is one of only four countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, after Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, to have negotiated and signed such an agreement.

Jordan concluded similar agreements with Germany, Switzerland, France, the

United Kingdom, Romania, Turkey, Malaysia, Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt, Italy, Algeria and Indonesia, according to Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra quoted U.S. Embassy Press Attaché Steve Thibault as saying that Jordan and the U.S. will sign an agreement this month to grant Jordan \$100 million in support of the country's economy.

He said that the volume of American aid to the Kingdom will reach \$146 million this year, noting that since 1990 Jordan received a total of \$2 billion in grants from the U.S.

## JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

DATE	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	F/E	DEV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
28.000	213.000	ABAS BANK	12.1	1.52	27	2160	587210	252.00	261.50	8.50
2.240	1.880	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	6.0	0.00	28	10.50	38703	2.10	2.10	.00
5.720	4.100	CITIBANK JORDAN	11.8	2.63	3	3020	17160	5.72	5.70	-.02
1.210	.880	KID EAST INV. BK.	61.7	0.00	1	550	517	.93	.94	.01
2.480	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.4	7.48	1	800	1120	2.25	2.28	.03
5.280	4.250	THE MIDDLE EAST	14.9	3.88	4	1300	6889	5.05	5.00	-.05
2.280	2.000	JOR. INVESTMENT BANK	11.5	0.00	4	9100	18570	2.42	2.41	-.01
1.050	.780	JOR. GULF BANK	5.2	0.05	3	7500	3045	.87	.87	.00
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.4	3.17	54	33318	117028	1.86	1.78	-.08
1.800	1.110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	9.0	0.00	2	600	708	1.19	1.18	-.01
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	20.1	0.00	3	1083	3389	3.15	3.13	-.02
2.510	1.900	BELT AL-HAL (HSTRA)	7.7	0.00	9	2121	2414	1.12	1.10	-.02
1.460	1.010	PHILADELPHIA INV. BK.	0	0.00	1	1000	1030	1.03	1.03	.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS										
2.350	1.600	JOR. VENEZIA INSUR.	4.7	12.05	1	250	415	1.66	1.66	.00
2.200	1.820	ANAS LIFE INSUR.	8.6	4.55	1	100	220	2.14	2.20	.06
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 201.15	180.00	INDEX: 201.15	180.00	INDEX: 201.15	180.00	INDEX: 201.15	180.00	INDEX: 201.15	180.00	INDEX: 201.15
1.820	1.460	JOR. ELECTRICITY	8.1	3.99	13	5885	9389	1.64	1.67	.03
1.840	1.320	JOR. ELECTRICITY	8.2	0.21	1	80	69	1.38	1.38	.00
1.380	.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	0	0.00	60	10000	10887	1.28	1.28	.00
.810	.480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	25.7	0.00	1	1000	500	.50	.50	.00
5.720	2.890	ANAS INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.6	0.00	3	9100	27317	2.90	2.91	.01
1.220	.940	SAVED EDUCATION	0	0.00	4	8550	8027	.94	.94	.00
2.230	1.630	UNITED CO.	8.1	6.43	1	50	86	1.67	1.71	.04
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 108.67	100.00	INDEX: 108.67	100.00	INDEX: 108.67	100.00	INDEX: 108.67	100.00	INDEX: 108.67	100.00	INDEX: 108.67
4.450	3.050	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.4	2.70	38	52054	212199	4.08	4.07	-.01
4.240	2.720	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	22.3	2.80	15	31665	123599	3.90	4.00	.08
10.580	8.700	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	9.4	9.12	4	312	3627	9.70	9.75	.05
7.250	5.950	JORDAN TAPPING	7.2	5.08	3	314	1853	5.95	5.90	-.05
3.260	1.690	INDUSTRIAL CORP. JOR.	0	0.00	3	750	1484	1.90	1.88	-.02
7.130	6.300	JOR. MORTGAGE	10.1	3.17	1	300	1890	6.30	6.30	.00
4.000	3.040	ANAS PAPER, MANT.	11.0	4.99	31	19420	71212	3.90	4.01	.11
7.230	5.650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	8.7	3.05	1	450	2948	6.55	6.55	.00
5.850	4.250	ANK ALDAMA DV. INV.	13.4	4.95	2	77	421	5.00	5.45	.45
3.840	2.710	ANAS ALUM. IND.	6.3	9.23	1	500	1255	2.71	2.71	.00
1.960	.650	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	6	5000	2300	.46	.46	.00
1.310	1.020	ANAS PAPER CONV. TRD.	31.8	0.00	1	250	250	1.01	1.04	.03
1.710	.520	NATIONAL TRD.	0	0.00	5	3750	1953	.52	.52	.00
1.230	.970	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	0	0.00	7	7000	3998	.57	.58	.01
3.330	2.120	NATL. CHALK MINE, PAFIC	40.4	0.00	5	1700	4250	2.10	2.50	.40
.950	.550	JOR. SILICO-CHEN	0	0.00	4	3200	1807	.57	.59	.02
1.670	1.120	ANAS PAPER, CHEM.	18.0	4.99	35	2880	7167	1.38	1.41	.03
2.190	1.300	UNIV. HIGH. IND.	7	0.00	35	18940	23349	1.11	1.07	-.04
1.520	1.090	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	14.8	0.00	10	2980	2743	1.07	1.07	.00
1.600	1.000	INTL. CIGARETTES	14.0	4.73	11	5900	2740	1.45	1.48	.03
1.090	.830	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.8	0.00	6	9500	8070	.84	.85	.02
1.500	.820	EL-SAY READY MEAT	52.8	0.00	6	450	975	1.48	1.50	.02
1.350	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	8.0	0.00	9	8850	7329	1.39	1.20	-.19
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 121.75	100.00	INDEX: 121.75	100.00	INDEX: 121.75	100.00	INDEX: 121.75	100.00	INDEX: 121.75	100.00	INDEX: 121.75
GRAND TOTAL										
INDEX: 161.65	100.00	INDEX: 161.65	100.00	INDEX: 161.65	100.00	INDEX: 161.65	100.00	INDEX: 161.65	100.00	INDEX: 161.65
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 02/07/1997										
.640	.380	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	0	0.00	1	500	185	.37	.37	.00
1.550	1.100	SARA PUN INVESTMENT	45.5	0.00	1	38852	33936	1.10	1.10	.00
.840	.460	UNION INV. SDT	0	0.00	1	1000	170	.67	.67	.00
.660	.370	ANAS FID. INVEST.	0	0.00	22	45200	21324	.47	.48	.01
.950	.610	AL-DUSTAR TSI	60.5	0.00	10	10000	10000	.61	.61	.00
.600	.300	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	0	0.00	4	10000	2650	.55	.55	.00
.750	.400	JORD. HOT. RES. MANTICO	0	0.00	99	45000	2323	.45	.45	.00
.850	.710	JORDAN STEEL	33.5	6.76	3	3000	1480	.74	.74	.00
.720	.460	HIGHEST PRIME 751	0	0.00	2	400	22	.60	.60	.00
1.220	.860	UNION TOBACCO 751	0	0.00	7	1542	860	.86	.86	.00
.690	.450	NATL. PHARM. 851	0	0.00	3	1200	1234	.45	.45	.00
.600	.340	TRD. ENG.	22.8	0.00	15	37550	12048	.34	.34	.00
.620	.380	NATL. POULTRY	0	0.00	4	1800	3015	.38	.38	.00
1.000	.780	BELT AL-HAL 751	0	0.00	8	4650	2447	.81	.79	-.02
.870	.520	INTL. EAST COMPLEX	7.9	15.63	6	17500	7739	.52	.54	.02
GRAND TOTAL										
INDEX: 105.00	100.00	INDEX: 105.00	100.00	INDEX: 105.00	100.00	INDEX: 105.00	100.00	INDEX: 105.00	100.00	INDEX: 105.00

1. New 12 months high  
2. New 12 months low  
3. Highest during the past 12 months  
4. Lowest during the past 12 months  
5. Positive P/E  
6. Negative P/E  
7. Earnings in euro or \$/A for the most recent year

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## REUTERS

## REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates										
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	MLG	FRF	
US Dollar	1.7415	8.6013	1.4550	114.85	1.3820	1700.00	1.9588	5.8670		
DE Mark	0.5742	0.3448	0.8354	65.84	0.7931	976.61	1.1247	3.3683		
GB Sterling	1.6630	2.8930	2.4081	190.45	2.2863	2827.10	3.2575	9.7568		
CH Franc	0.8873	119.81	0.4127	78.92	0.8482	1167.58	134.88	4.0295		
JP Yen	0.0087	1.5160	0.5228	1.2658	1.2023	14.79	170.40	5.1040		
CA Dollar	0.7238	1.2353	0.4304	1.0310	1.20	1205.88	1.3900	4.1875		
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0241	0.3534	0.0856	1481.92	0.8127	11.52	3.4502		
NL Guilder	0.5105	88.86	0.3068	74.27	58.59	0.7052	867.44	2.9937		
FR Franc	0.1704	0.2967	0.1024	24.7913	19.56	0.2355	33.38	33.3800		

Middle Eastern Currencies										
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP	
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	3.6398	0.3022	3.6720	1535.50	3.3930	
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	2.5972	0.5324	0.1410	0.4268	0.1877	2168.79	4.7924	
GB Sterlling	0.2666	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.87	0.0806	0.88	408.42	0.9047	
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8781	9.9488	-	9.86	0.8015	0.74	4073.27	9.8007	
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0830	1.01	421.86	0.9322	
Kuwait Dinar	3.3096	2.3432	12.4124	12.476	12.05	-	12.16	5061.91	0.9322	
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1828	1.0211	1.0205	0.9910	0.0823	-	418.06	0.9238	
Lebanese\$1000	0.65	0.4611	2.4425	2.4245	2.3704	0.1968	2.3920	-	2.2097	
Egyptian	0.2847	0.2087	1.0053	1.1111	1.0727	0.0891	1.0825	452.55	-	



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Arab Paper Converting & Trading Company posts lower profit despite boosting sales by 95%

**ALTHOUGH SALES** grew by 95 per cent last year, the Arab Paper Converting and Trading Company posted lower profit due to higher costs of the raw materials compared to selling prices and very high level of competition in the local and neighbouring markets. Local sales rose by 78.5 per cent from JD1.85 million in 1995 to JD3.30 million in 1996. Exports increased by 136 per cent from JD0.71 million in 1995 to JD1.68 million in 1996. Overall, the volume of sales reached JD4.98 million, 95 per cent above the 1995 total of JD2.56 million.

The company's production in 1996 reached 3,636 tonnes compared to 1,924 tonnes in the preceding year. "As such," the Board Chairman Adel Hijawi told the general assembly, "the available production capacity is very large and more attention is required on marketing and sales in the local and outside markets." He added that the board of directors will concentrate in 1997 on consolidating the sales team and marketing to boost sales and lay down advanced marketing programmes. According to the annual report, the company acquired various machinery and equipment last year and, consequently, fixed assets increased by 65.5 per cent. The total reached JD2.79 million compared to JD1.69 million at the end of 1995. Current assets totalled JD3.46 million, 20.7 per cent down from JD4.37 million at the end of 1995. Shareholders' equity rose by 15.7 per cent from JD4.31 million to JD4.99 million at the end of 1996.

Mr. Hijawi concluded the general assembly meeting by telling the shareholders that high interest rates represent a main hindrance to achieving profit in the industrial sector and that the board of directors will work hard to minimise the negative effect of high interest on the company's profitability.

The shareholders approved allocating JD121,800 net profit to retained earnings (Al Aswak).

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1997 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Any difficulties which crop up today can be handled easily, however be sure you use caution. You can make real progress later this evening if you use charm and finesse in handling any situation which could develop.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) If you study periodicals carefully today, you can discover some ways to solve current difficulties. Plan a business trip which can be quite beneficial to the success of your career activities in the days ahead.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You'll have an opportunity today to discuss property matters with an expert, so listen carefully. Do something thoughtful for your mate which he or she will be quite appreciative of your kindness.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) If you are not sure how to handle a private difficulty today, wait until this afternoon when a trusted fellow associate can provide you with good advice. Later this evening will be good for recreational which are enjoyable.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Try to spend some quiet time today by yourself thinking about how you can best improve your situation. Put aside until later this evening small chores and please your mate with a thoughtful gesture of affection.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) This afternoon would be a good time to get together with good friends and plan some recreational activities which will be enjoyable. Please your mate more by getting along with his or her friends and thereby avoid any difficulty.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Be sure you keep your business interests separate from your home life so that there won't be any difficult situation developing. You should not neglect a close relative who is always on your side in any emergency.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Treat a new acquaintance whose background is radically different from your own as you would anyone else, and everything will work out well. Later this evening meet with close friends for some fun activities.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) After handling your usual tasks today, schedule your time and activities for the coming week so that you can be successful in your endeavours. Find a way to improve your home so that it will be comfortable.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Be kind and thoughtful to a fellow associate today with whom you have some issue to resolve. If you go out later this evening, take no risks while driving on the highway and thereby avoid any difficulties.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Try to change your diet somewhat, and get some exercise which will make you feel better in the days ahead. Enjoy the domestic scene with your mate and thereby make your residence a spot of beauty and fun.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) This is an ideal day today to attend an affair with close friends which your mate has been interested in. Don't do anything to damage your reputation or you could discover that people will scatter like geese.

Birthstone of July: Pearl — Ruby — Tiger's Eye

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LADLY

PEELO

NAZATS

YEARTT

Print answer here: A

Saturdays

Jumbles: JUMPY LEAFY UPHELD EMBALM

Answer: What tourists get when they view that tower in Paris — AN EYE FULL

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

... And the price is only \$145,000

I'll give you half

WHAT THE BURGLAR LOOKED FOR WHEN HE BOUGHT A HOME.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

## Korea Products Show offers Jordanians variety of goods and trade opportunities

By Tanya Hubjouqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — Korean products and business opportunities are currently available to the Jordanian public in a festival atmosphere at the fifth annual Korean Products Show.

A total of 19 companies from the Jordanian community and five Korean companies are participating,

showcasing a variety of Korean made products, ranging from automobiles, home appliances and computers, to kitchen ware.

"Our goal is to strengthen economic ties between Korea and Jordan," Korea Trade Centre (KTC) Director Sung-Keun OH said Wednesday.

A highlight of this year's show includes the

establishment of a catalogue show corner which offers extensive information to businesspersons interested in doing business with Korea.

"Unfortunately the business cycle in Jordan has witnessed a low period, so we hope this show will give a boost to business," Mr. OH told the Jordan Times.

Trade relations between the two countries remain

high as Jordanian exports to Korea amounted to \$27 million in 1996 while Korean exports to Jordan totalled \$152 million, Mr. OH said.

"We will present many new products to the public and help Jordanian agents develop fruitful sales potential, thereby enlarging business," Mr. OH explained.

When a Korean Company salesperson dealing in

amethyst and jade jewellery was asked about what her expectations, Suhhee Ga said: "the people are nice and the culture is beautiful, that is enough for me to bring my products here."

Korean and Jordanian folk music performances will take place daily, sponsored by Freddy for Music, a company dealing in Korean musical instruments. Mr. OH

said. A Korean film festival will also take place daily, while a special Korean traditional drum music performance will be held during the last two evenings of the show.

"This year's show is our largest yet — we have high expectations," Mr. OH concluded.

The 1997 Korean Products show is open to the public until July 7.

## Billionaire prince invests in Beirut's Planet Hollywood

**RIYADH (AFP)** — Saudi billionaire Prince Al Walid bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz has struck a partnership with a Lebanese businessman to open a Planet Hollywood restaurant in Beirut, the prince's office here has said.

"I am pleased to participate in the company's first middle Eastern operation and have great faith in Lebanon's ability to gain back its position as a leisure, cultural and commercial centre," said the prince, who has a Lebanese mother.

Prince Walid, head of a financial empire with business interests around the globe, will hold 49 per cent of shares in the Centre Point Company which is to open the Planet Hollywood restaurant in Beirut next year.

Lebanese businessman Khaled Ali Hammoud will

hold the other 51 per cent, acting as chairman and chief executive officer.

Prince Walid has also bought a stake of between 40 and 50 per cent in a Meridien Hotel on the Beirut seafont, officials in Beirut said.

An outline agreement was reached between the prince, the nephew of King Fahd, and the Daher family, the hotel's Lebanese owners, according to the official ANI news agency. The deal will be signed soon, it added.

In April, the prince announced a "strategic alliance" with Planet Hollywood International Inc. to launch restaurants or merchandise shops in more than 20 countries of the Middle East and Europe.

Beirut already has a Planet Hollywood merchandise outlet.

### Compaq introduces Flat-Panel LCD Monitor to the Middle East

Compaq this month announced the worldwide launch of its first flat-panel LCD monitor, the TFT500. Features include:

- 15.1-inch viewable active-matrix flat-panel screen.
- Wide-angle viewing capability for increased customer flexibility and productivity.
- Universal Serial Bus (USB) capabilities and direct VGA port delivering investment protection, setting new standards in connectivity and ease-of-use.

The Compaq TFT is a 15.1-inch viewable, active-matrix flat-panel monitor delivering an unmatched combination of size and performance at one of the industry's lowest prices. Designed for users who place a premium on saving valuable desktop space without sacrificing screen performance, the TFT500 offers customers an innovative design and flexibility that helps improve business productivity.

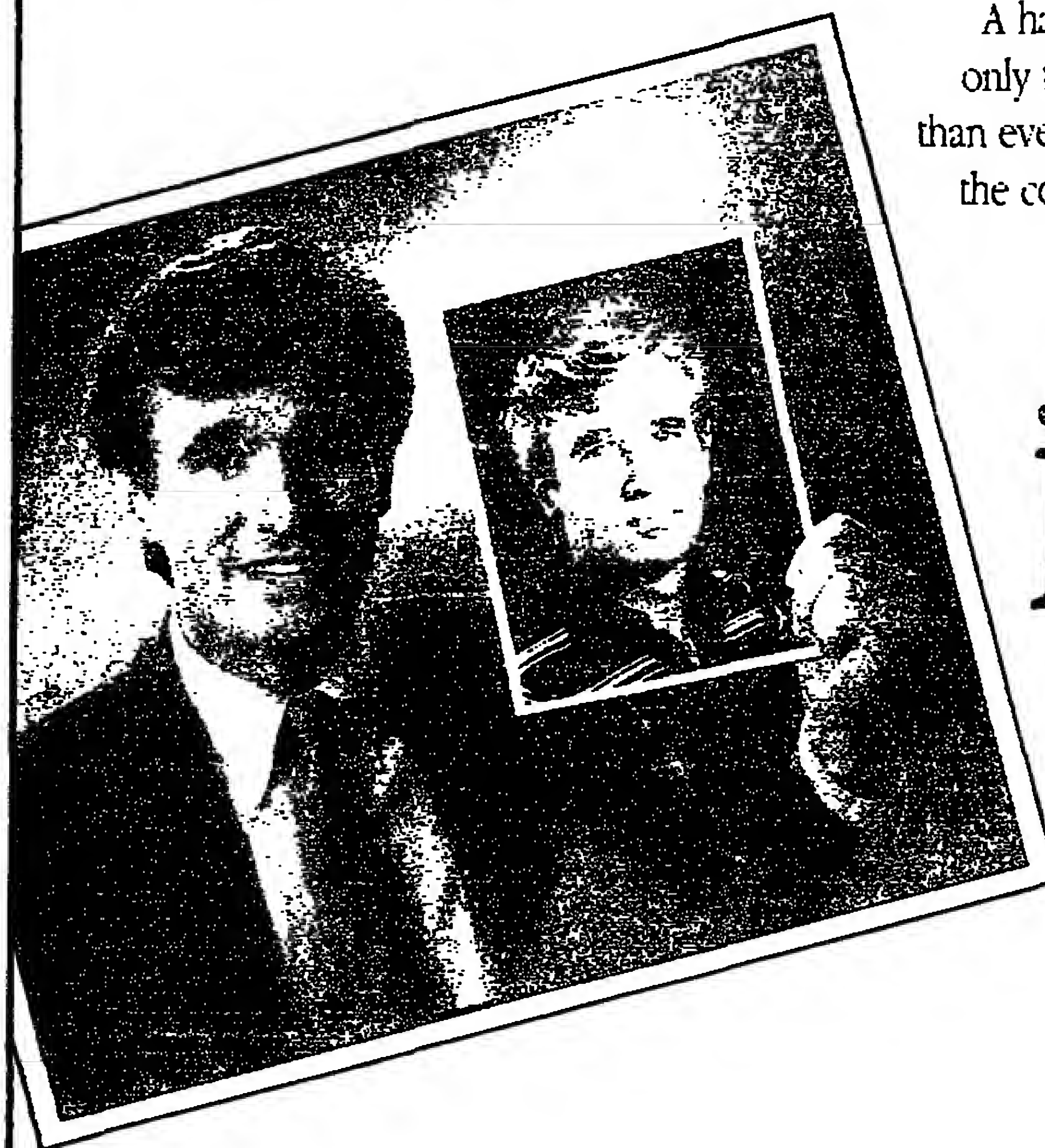
Dr. Walid Moneimne, managing director of Compaq Computer Middle East, said: "Compaq has launched into the flat panel market with innovative new technology to improve usability in the workplace. Working closely with our existing customers, we have developed this new product to ensure that their ever changing requirements are constantly met."

With the industry's widest side-to-side viewing angle of 120 degrees, the TFT500 delivers crisp flicker-free images and is delivered to customers in one of three specific mounting formats. The TFT500's 15.1-inch viewable image size allows virtually the same viewing area as a traditional 17-inch CRT, but occupies 60% less space.

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# Kingdom's teams finalise preparations for Pan-Arab Games

## National soccer team leaves for training camp in Turkey

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With less than ten days remaining for the start of the 8th Pan-Arab Games, the Kingdom's sports teams are now in the final stages of completing their preparations for the event which starts in Beirut, Lebanon, July 12-27.

Jordan's soccer team left for Istanbul Wednesday for a week-long training camp where they will meet Turkish champions Galatasaray and Istanbulspor.

The team will be back July 9 before leaving with the basketball teams and Jordan's official delegation July 11 to be part of the opening ceremony of the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

Twenty countries have confirmed participation in the event and only Somalia and the Comoros Islands will not be competing.

The Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) Technical Committee Chairman Sari Hamdan noted that federations had a week remaining to finalise their teams and that the minister of youth would meet the delegation July 7.

Meanwhile, the JOC is now following up the Kingdom's players who are undergoing medical tests which the JOC has set as a main criteria for participation in order to rule out any possible injury.

Some check ups showed that a few athletes had injuries that would bar them from successfully competing and therefore some events and athletes are expected to be possibly ruled out of competition.

The JOC had asked federations to name the most promising athletes and teams with a chance of attaining at least a halfway standings in their respective sports as a minimum criteria to qualify for participation.

Compared to the preliminary list, the Kingdom's delegation was lately downsized to 182. Eighty-nine men and 32 women athletes will be competing in 13 of the 21 events at the Games. The delegation will also include 61 team managers, coaches and officials.

The latest list cuts down the number of athletes and referees in some games and excludes four games as Jordan had previously announced it would be competing in 17 events.

The preliminary list of the 257-member delegation had included 130

men and 37 women athletes, 64 officials and coaches, and 26 referees.

Twenty-one events have been set for the Games excluding handball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

Jordan dropped participation in fencing, cycling, tennis and volleyball, and the entry form now includes participation in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf, yachting and kick-boxing.

Basketball is scheduled to be the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Following their latest results against the Syrian national team last week, women's basketball was given the go-ahead by Minister of Youth and Sports Qasem Abu Ein who prompted the JOC to include the team to maintain continuity for the women's game which had been non-existent from 1983-1995 when the team was regrouped and took part in the Asian Championship.

A JBF press release said that it was important to upgrade the team's form and compete in order to gain match-experience. Since local matches are very limited, having a good team is impossible unless players are given the chance to participate in such championships.

Five teams — Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia, Jordan and Syria — will contest the women's basketball event at the Games.

The men's team, runner up in the last Pan-Arab Games, did not fare any better against Syria and won only one out of three matches.

Both teams are now undergoing a tough training regimen and the women's teams has been boosted with the arrival of Jumana Salti who was a main player in the team and was chosen among the top players of the 1995 Asian championship.

In athletics too, Nada Kawa' who represented Jordan at the Atlanta Olympics last summer, is scheduled to arrive from U.S. to represent Jordan in the shot put in which she holds the Arab record at 17.39 metres.

The delay in finalising the delegation until now and the uncertainty surrounding the athletes and games

Jordan is slated to take part in has been criticised by sports officials citing it as a main point hindering serious preparation and displaying a lax attitude towards the biggest Arab sports gathering.

Participation in the event is expected to cost around JD 92,000.

In order to cut down on cost, each team will arrive in Beirut one day prior to its event and leave following the end of their respective competitions. Each Federation will also pay 40 per cent of expenses incurred by the Ministry of Youth — something most federations might not be able to do.

However, officials have noted the importance of taking part in the Pan-Arab Games which have only been held seven times since 1953.

Jordan had finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Hosts Syria topped the medals table with 48 points, 31 silver, 37 bronze followed by Egypt and Algeria.

The event was due to be held last year but was postponed after the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon.

Beirut is racing against time to complete work at facilities including the main stadium where the opening ceremony will be held. Venues include facilities in Beirut, Tripoli, Beqaa, Qafra, Sidon, Ein Sa'ada, and Jounieh.

According to latest reports, the biggest contingent will be that of hosts Lebanon with 563, followed by Syria 359 and Egypt 343.

Lebanese sports officials last month announced that the main sports city cost \$72 million adding that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had helped in financing the project while pledges from other Arab countries had not been received.

Jordan has received preliminary approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 1999 following a meeting of ministers of youth from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, the Arab League and the Arab Sports Federation held on the sidelines of the visit of the ministerial committee of the Arab Ministers of Sports to inspect Lebanon's preparations for the Games.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Morocco 1985 and Damascus 1992.

## Indurain has no regrets about missing Tour de France

ROME (R) — Spain's Miguel Indurain said in an Italian newspaper interview on Wednesday he would have no regrets about missing his first Tour de France for 11 years when the race starts this weekend.

"It will be a different tour. But I won't regret the choice I made to stop competitive cycling," Indurain told Gazzetta Dello Sport.

"Having given up competitive racing I see the Tour with different eyes. I feel less involved."

The 32-year-old Indurain, the only cyclist to win the Tour for five consecutive years, announced his retirement from the sport in January, saying he wanted to give time to other facets of his life.

Indurain failed to win a sixth consecutive Tour last year, finishing 11th more than 14 minutes behind winner Bjarne Riis of Denmark.

The cyclist, who was also forced to pull out of the Spanish Vuelta 30 kms from the end last year, told La Gazzetta he believed a favourite for this year's 3,870-km tour was 23-year-old Jan Ullrich of Germany.

"Riis is more than 30 years old. The future is more with Ullrich," Indurain said.

The Tour begins in Rouen on Saturday with a eight-km time trial and ends on July 27 in Paris after 21 stages across France.

## Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez head U.S. Fed Cup team

WHITE PLAINS, New York (R) — U.S. Captain Martina Navratilova on Tuesday named Lindsay Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez, Kimberly Po and Lisa Raymond to the Fed Cup team that will take on Japan later this month in a playoff for a place in next year's World Group.

The United States and Japan will meet July 12-13 at the Longwood Cricket Club outside Boston for the right to remain in World Group I and compete for the 1998 Fed Cup.

"This is probably the strongest team we could have," said Navratilova, in her first year as U.S. captain.

The United States won the Fed Cup in 1996 but was stunned in the first round by the Netherlands 3-2 in March, leaving the Americans needing a win in the playoff to remain in the competition's top echelon.

Japan was forced into the playoff situation after being knocked out in the first round by France, 4-1.

## Holyfield eyes November fight, but not against Tyson

NEW YORK (R) — Evander Holyfield said on Tuesday he was looking to fight again in November but not against Mike Tyson. He said no opponent had been lined up yet.

Appearing on CNN's Larry King live programme, Holyfield indicated he expected Tyson to be suspended from boxing for biting both of his ears for at least two years.

Holyfield said if he was still "in the game of boxing" after Tyson served his suspension then another fight between the two of them was a possibility provided Tyson worked himself back up to become the number one contender and there was interest in such a fight.

In an earlier interview on the MSNBC cable television network, Holyfield said he backed the Nevada State Athletic Commission's move on Tuesday to keep Tyson under suspension and hoped the punishment Tyson ultimately receives would be good for boxing.

"I think they handled it properly by taking action against Mike because he's the one that committed the foul," Holyfield said in the interview.

The commission ruled Tuesday that a formal complaint would be made against Tyson for biting both of Holyfield's ears in the third round of their World Boxing Association heavyweight title fight on Saturday and drawing a disqualification. A disciplinary hearing will be held next

week to decide whether to assess a fine that could approach \$3 million and or to impose a ban on Tyson's boxing in the future.

"The commission should do the proper thing to keep other boxers from doing that," said Holyfield, who needed 15 stitches to close the wound in his right ear and will require plastic surgery.

"The word will be passed down that your behaviour is a big part of sports."

Holyfield, dressed in a black sleeveless shirt and leopard vest, and speaking on camera from Fairburn, Georgia, said he had accepted Tyson's public apology Monday but that Tyson's future in the sport depended on his actions.

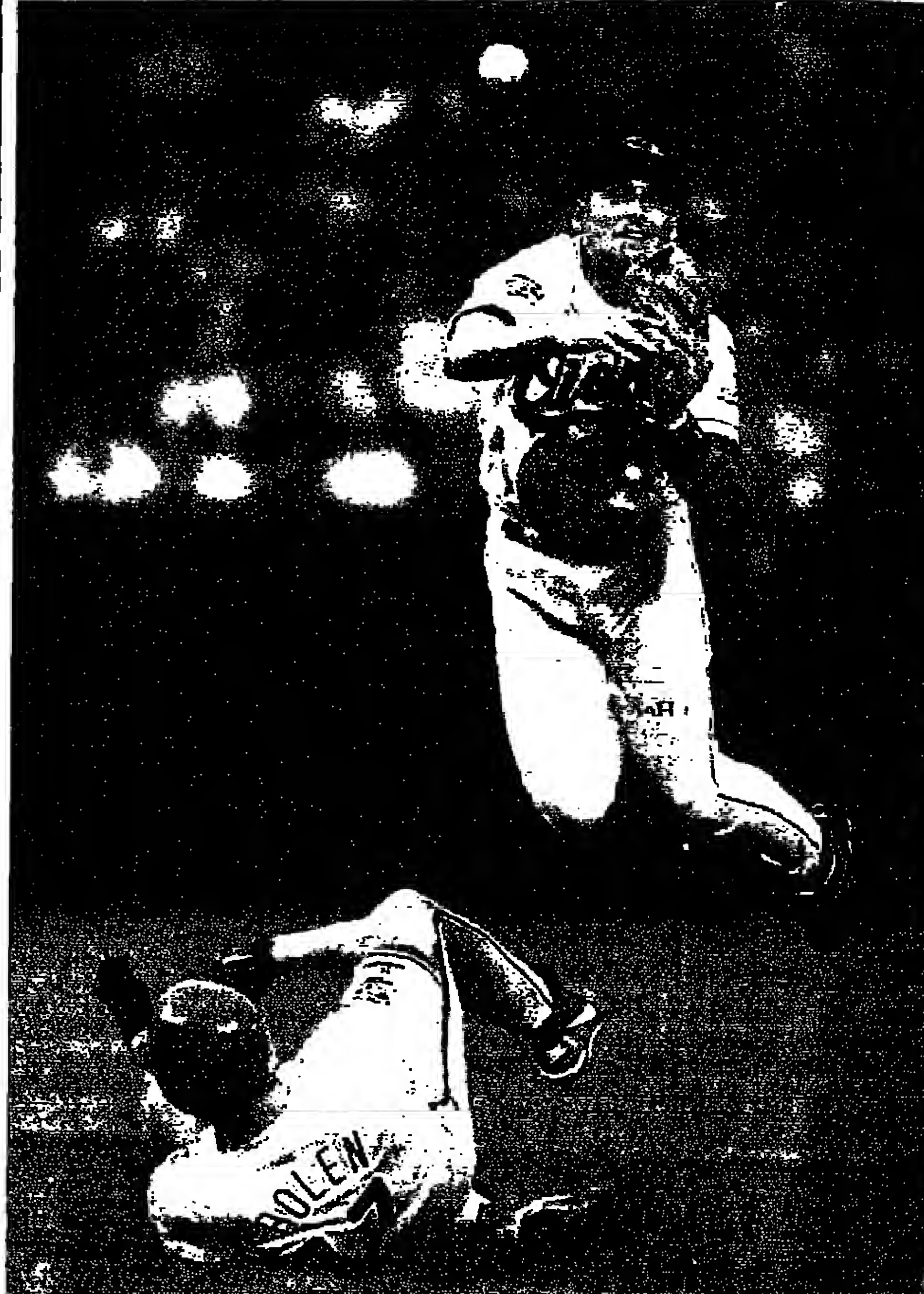
"I do accept it," Holyfield said about Tyson's apology. "But I truly believe that time tells everything. The mouth can say anything."

Holyfield, who won the WBA crown by stopping Tyson in the 11th round of their first match, also received about \$30 million for the bout, thanks in part to the huge interest in Tyson.

But the three-time heavyweight champion said the fight game would move forward with or without Tyson.

"Boxing can survive without any individual, even myself," said Holyfield.

"He (Tyson) will have to become a better person to stay in the game — or the game will have to go on without him."



Baltimore Orioles shortstop Mike Bordick leaps over Philadelphia Phillies' Scott Rolen after forcing him at second and throwing on to first to complete a double play on Rico Brogna in the second inning at Camden Yards July 1 (Reuters photo)

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Seattle (AL)	15	San Francisco (NL)	4
Boston (AL)	9	Florida (NL)	2
Detroit (AL)	8	NY Mets (NL)	6
Baltimore (AL)	4	Philadelphia (NL)	1
Cincinnati (NL)	9	Milwaukee (AL)	1
Atlanta (NL)	3	NY Yankees (AL)	1
Pittsburgh (NL)	3	Chicago White Sox (AL)	0
Cleveland (AL)	8	Houston (NL)	6
St Louis (NL)	2	Minnesota (AL)	0
Los Angeles (NL)	6	Texas (AL)	3

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## Henman beats Krajicek to reach quarters Kournikova upsets Majoli; Sampras wins

WIMBLEDON (Agencies) — Tim Henman ousted defending champion Richard Krajicek on Wednesday, putting two British men in the quarterfinals for the first time in 36 years.

In a match that had been suspended Tuesday after three sets, Henman picked up where he left off and completed a 7-6 (9-7), 6-7 (7-9), 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 victory before 13,000 wildly cheering centre court fans.

Henman needed 36 minutes Wednesday to join fellow Brit Greg Rusedski in the quarterfinals. It's the first time two British men have reached the final eight since Mike Sangster and Bobby Wilson in 1961.

The only break of the set came in the fifth game, when Henman — trying to guess where Krajicek was serving rather than reacting at the last second — came up with strong returns and Krajicek missed four straight volleys to lose at love.

Henman saved a break point with a service winner in the eighth game. Two

boyfriend, Detroit red wings star Sergei Federov, and her mother, Alla, and pushed up both arms in a raise-the-roof salute.

The third-seeded Novotna had been stretched to three sets in three of her four previous matches and, suffering from an aching right knee, had hoped to have Wednesday off.

But Novotna was on top throughout and enjoyed a comfortable straight-set win in 69 minutes over Basuki, playing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

"I had the match in control from the beginning to the end," Novotna said.

Novotna, a natural grass-court player, reached the semifinals at Wimbledon for the third time. She was runner-up in 1993, when she sobbed on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent after blowing a big third-set lead against Steffi Graf.

While Germany and Britain have made big breakthroughs at Wimbledon, the Americans have hit a low.

Sampras was the last American in the draw mak-



Russia's 16-year-old Anna Kournikova celebrates her win over Croatia's Iva Majoli during their match at the Wimbledon tennis championships. Kournikova won the match 7-6 6-4 (Reuters photo)

ing it the fewest number of Americans in the quarterfinals since 1913.

"It's unfortunate, but I think that everything goes in cycles, and this was just a bad year for the U.S. here," said Mary Joe Fernandez, the last American woman in the field after her 5-7, 6-4, 7-5 loss to Jana Novotna.

Three German men — Boris Becker, Michael Stich and Nicolas Pietrangeli — have reached the quarterfinals for the first time at any Grand Slam in the open era.

Stich beat Mark Woodforde, 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3, 7-5; Becker overpowered Marcelo Rios, 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5); and Pietrangeli upset third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 6-2, 7-5, 2-6, 6-1.

Stich, making his last Wimbledon appearance in his retirement year, would love nothing better than to win the title to prove that his 1991 triumph was no fluke. Stich said he would also be tempted to retire immedi-

ately if he does win here. "I would love to win the tournament and say, that's it, that's the best way to finish it," he said.

The 19-year-old Kiefer is a protégé of Becker and a member of his German junior team. The two have spoken every day during the tournament to discuss strategy.

"It's funny to have a pupil in the quarterfinal too," Becker said. "I talked to him before matches and he goes out and beats the whole world. I just hope that he stays (with his feet) on the ground for another couple of days."

There is even the possibility of the two facing each other in the semifinals.

"He's the boss of the junior team," Kiefer said. "To play against him and maybe to win against him... I want to win against him here, but I still have two more matches. So we'll see."



British number one Tim Henman celebrates his victory over Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands. Henman won the match 7-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 (Reuters photo)

games later, he served out the match at love, finishing with a forehand volley that wrong-footed Krajicek.

Henman walked off to a standing ovation, including from George and Barbara Bush in the royal box.

World No. 1 Pete Sampras took another step towards his fourth Wimbledon singles crown here on Wednesday but he was made to work hard for a 6-4, 6-3, 6-7 (8/10), 6-7 (1/7), 6-4 fourth-round victory over Petr Korda of the Czech Republic.

The 25-year-old American now plays Germany's three-times champion, Boris Becker, for a place in the semifinals.

Sampras, who hit 27 aces, was leading 6-4, 4-2 when fading light stopped play on Tuesday night.

In women's play, unseeded 16-year-old Russian star Anna Kournikova reached her first Grand Slam semifinal when she downed French Open champion Iva Majoli in straight sets at Wimbledon. Kournikova, displaying remarkable cool and poise on centre court, won all the big points as she downed the fourth-seeded Croatian 7-6 (7-1), 6-4.

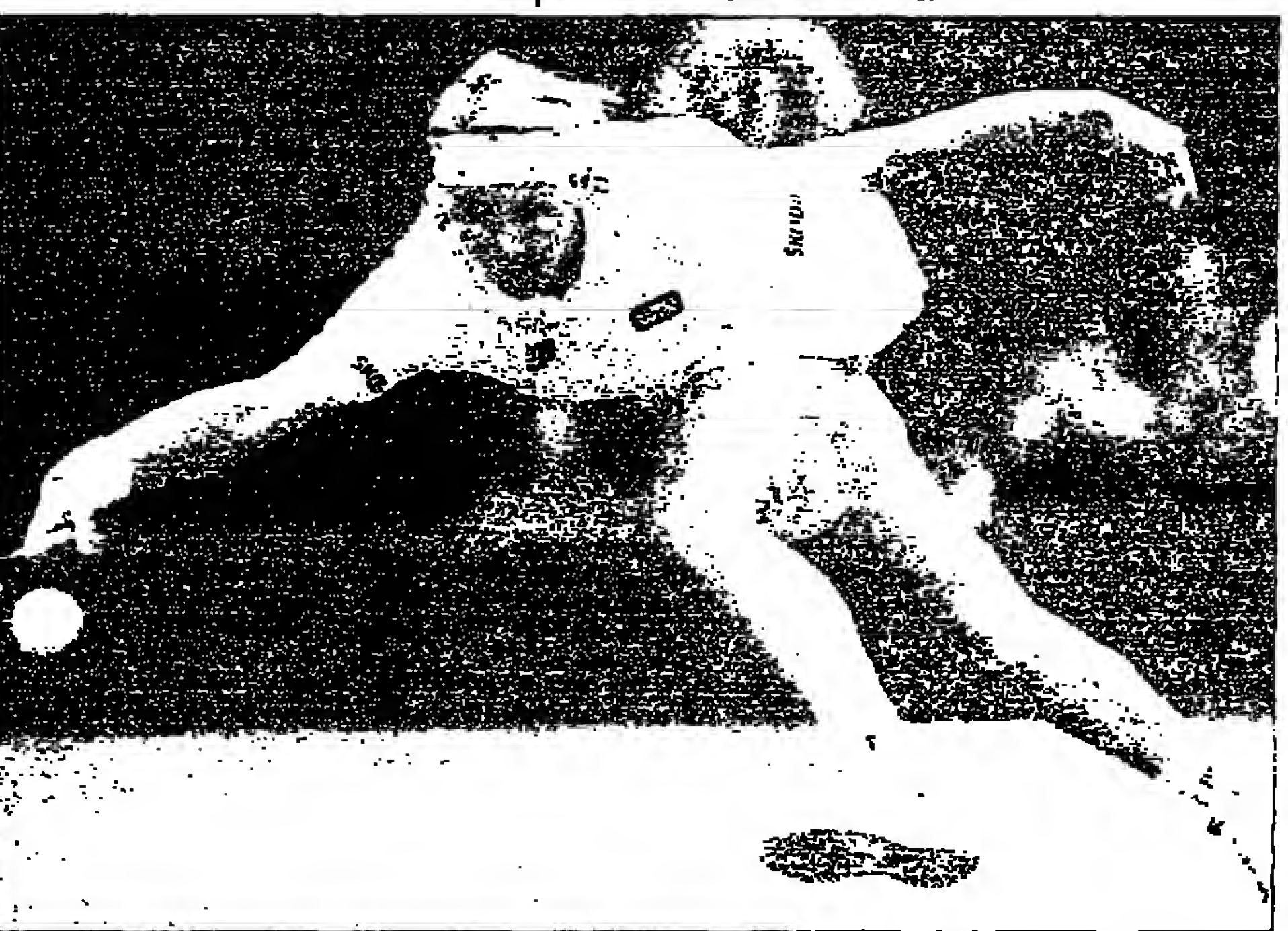
Also advancing to the semifinals was Jana Novotna, who dismissed Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki 6-3, 6-3. Kournikova could be in line for a semifinal showdown against fellow 16-year-old Martina Hingis, who faced Denisa Chladkova in a later quarter-final.

In the fourth women's quarterfinal, No. 8 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was up against Nathalie Tauziat.

Majoli served for the first set at 5-3 but unravelled as Kournikova won three straight games. Majoli broke to force a tiebreaker, but Kournikova dominated completely and the Croatian double-faulted on set point.

The two were on serve until the 10th game of the second set, when Kournikova broke to close out the match with a forehand cross-court return.

The Russian turned to her



Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic stretches to return the ball during her match against Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki. Novotna won the match 6-3, 6-3 (Reuters photo)

## World Youth Cup Uruguay beat Ghana, meet Argentina in final match

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Uruguay and Argentina won hard-fought semi-finals on Wednesday to set up an all-South American final in the World Youth Championships.

Uruguay beat Ghana 3-2 and defending champions Argentina beat a courageous Irish team 1-0.

Alvaro Pereira scored a golden goal in the 104th minute to see Uruguay through after Ghana fought back from 2-0 down to force extra-time.

Saturday's final will be the second successive South American final in the Under-20 tournament. Argentina and Brazil figured in the title clash in Qatar in 1995.

Ghana, runners-up to Brazil in Australia in 1993, delighted the 15,000 fans at the Shah Alam Stadium by fighting back in an action-packed encounter.

Marcelo Zalayeta scored his fourth goal in the tournament to put Uruguay ahead in the 12th minute.

Ghana launched an all-out assault to grab the equaliser but were twice unlucky to hit the post after beating Uruguayan goalkeeper Gustavo Munua.

It was against the run of play that Uruguay made it 2-0 a minute before half-time when Walter Coelho made a 40-yard solo run and beat Ghana's goalkeeper Osei Asamoah.

The Africans narrowed the margin a few seconds later when Odartey Lawson banged home a pass from the left flank after a swift counter-attack.

Both teams went on the offensive in the second half and Ghana earned a lucky break when a goalmouth melee resulted in Uruguay's Alejandro Botta deflecting the ball into his own goal to make it 2-2.

In extra-time, a 30-yard free kick by Martin Fernandez was bootied in by Pereira to lift Uruguay into their first World Youth final.

"What a game," exclaimed a relieved Uruguayan coach Victor Pua.

"It was easily the best match of the tournament."

"Ghana took their chances well, but I am happy we have won. This match will do well for the boys in their build-up for the final."

They will be stronger."

Ghana's coach Francis Akineni consoled his weeping wards by saying they had done their country proud.

"There is no shame in a defeat like this," he said. "My team played superbly. It's just bad luck we lost. The game could have gone either way."

## Momentum gone in Seles' career

WIMBLEDON (AP) — When the chair umpire overruled an important point, Monica Seles protested briefly and then walked away, mumbling to herself.

She is beyond arguing, a once-dominant player turned world-weary at age 23, her killer instinct stolen by a man with a knife.

Seles bowed out meekly Monday at Wimbledon, blowing a 5-2 lead in the third set. Sandrine Testud, a Frenchwoman ranked 23rd, rallied to win the third-round match 0-6, 6-4, 8-6.

"I had the momentum," Seles said, "and I let it go."

The momentum in her career is gone, too, for reasons that warrant only sympathy.

Once a gushy chatterbox, Seles now speaks in clipped sentences with a vacant, sorrowful stare. Her father has stomach cancer, complicating her psychological recovery from the knife attack that sidelined her for nearly 2 1/2 years.

"It's a transition," she said. "Five years from now may be different. I just always try to be in the present and hopefully try to do some things that can help for the future."

At Wimbledon she was grim and tense, appearing on the verge of tears during one news conference when the questions turned personal. The topic of tennis was awkward, too.

She has become slow-footed and — by her own



Monica Seles

admission — overweight. Her thighs were the subject of unflattering newspaper photos each day until the London tabloids turned their attention to Evander Holyfield's ear.

Wimbledon is the lone Grand Slam that Seles has yet to win, and her questionable condition — mentally and physically — suggested she had little chance for a breakthrough during this fortnight.

Seles' ranking has slipped to No. 4 in the nine months since her last tournament title, and the only surprise about her elimination was that it came against Testud, the sort of player she used to beat with barely a grunt.

Seles won the first seven games, then began to struggle. Still, she was just two points from the match in the third set at 5-2, 30-30,

and was serving at 5-3, 0-15 when umpire Jane Harvey overruled a line call to give Testud a point.

"No way," Seles shouted. "You can't overrule that!" the overrule stood.

"It didn't come at a great time," Seles said, "but I still shouldn't have let it bother me that much. I was mumbling to myself a little bit in that game and the next game, too."

Controversy aside, Seles has developed a tendency to squander leads. Her nerve — and backhand — failed her in key moments against Testud.

With match point at 6-5, Seles sent an easy shot long, and by the final game, the winner of nine Grand Slams was biting her nails. She stood and watched Testud fire an ace on the final point, leaving Mary Joe Fernandez as the only American in the women's field.

Seles became the seventh seeded woman to lose in two days.

In five appearances at Wimbledon, Seles has reached the semifinals only once, losing the 1992 final to Steffi Graf. But she still claims to believe she can win a Wimbledon title.

"I don't think I would be out there if that wasn't the case," she said. "I would love it if I could win it. Gosh, I hopefully have a few more years to try at it."

Such rivals as top-ranked Martina Hingis discount Seles' current vulnerability and insist that she remains dangerous on any surface.

"Monica is always going to be a hard player," said Hingis, who beat Seles in the semis at the French Open. "It doesn't matter where you meet her."

But for Seles, the tennis court has become merely a refuge. She probably won't recapture her former brilliance, and that's the least of her problems.

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